MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1981

Iran

Reaction to Khomeyni Guidelines--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has welcomed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's 16 March instructions for the settlement of differences among Iran's leaders. In a letter to Khomeyni, broadcast by Tehran radio, Bani-Sadr said his instructions will have a "decisive effect" in reassuring the people and strengthening their morale. Iran's enemies should now realize, Bani-Sadr went on, that it is futile to try to "stab the Islamic Republic in the back." The president also said that after further study he will shortly nominate a representative for the three-man committee proposed by Khomeyni.

The radio also broadcast a letter to Khomeyni from Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti in which he said that Khomeyni's guidance during this "sensitive period" has gladdened the nation and weakened the enemy "fifth column." Khomeyni's insistence on observing the Constitution has clarified the duties of the Council of Guardians, Beheshti added, and has made coordination of all forces "clearer and smoother," putting an end to "doubts."

Majlis Speaker Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised Khomeyni's "timely and appropriate message," which demonstrated his "effective and influential leadership." In a statement to the Majlis, broadcast by the radio, he noted that Khomeyni's guidelines have confirmed and delineated the limits of authority and have put the people's minds at rest. Rafsanjani called on the Majlis to implement Khomeyni's "decree."

After the Majlis session, the majority of deputies signed a statement, broadcast by the radio, that praised Khomeyni for calming "anxious hearts" and defeating Iran's enemies, who have been creating "an unstable climate and artificial polarization." Khomeyni has presented the Constitution as the yardstick for relations between everyone, including the authorities, and has dealt a blow to "minigroups." The deputies gave an assurance that they will do everything in their power to obey Khomeyni.

The public relations office of the radio and television network responded to Khomeyni's guidelines by announcing over the radio that the proposed face-to-face radio and television debate about the events of 5 March has been canceled.

Amir-Entezam Trial--The trial of former Deputy Prime Minister 'Abbas Amir-Entezam has begun, Tehran radio reported. Citing PARS, AFP reported that former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan testified on Amir-Entezam's behalf. Bazargan said that he and former Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi had authorized Amir-Entezam's contacts with U.S. diplomats and added that if such contacts are considered treasonous, "I could be held responsible."

Extradition Demand--ANATOLIA news agency, citing sources close to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, reported that Iran has requested the return of an Iranian Air Force colonel who earlier flew to Turkey seeking asylum.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqis Plan Strike--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, citing a "high-ranking Iraqi source," reported on 13 March that Iraq is planning a strong military strike against Iranian targets using Mirage aircraft recently received from France.

Military Situation--According to Tehran radio, Iranian forces killed 100 Iraqi troops, destroyed 30 tanks and captured 60 Iraqi soldiers in a battle west of Susangerd. It added that after several hours of fighting, the Iraqi unit was forced to retreat several kilometers. On the other hand, an Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that during the battle the Iranian unit was forced to retreat. Tehran radio also reported that Iranian troops recaptured stretegic heights in the Gilan-e Gharb and Qasr-e Shirin regions and that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down over Bushehr.

Gulf Affairs

The oil ministers of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar met in Riyadh, SPA reported. Afterward, Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said the purpose of the meeting was to coordinate positions on current issues concerning OPEC.

Pakistan

After earlier announcing the names of 27 of the 54 prisoners released in exchange for hostages held by hijackers of a Pakistani airliner, Karachi radio has broadcast the names of the remaining 27. Their crimes, the radio said, included espionage, conspiracy against the state and the publication of clandestine subversive material.

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FOUR OIL MINISTERS DISCUSS OPEC ISSUES 17 MAR

LD171214 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0913 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA)--The oil ministers of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar held a meeting in Riyadh at noon today to discuss a number of oil matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs; Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources; 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti oil minister, and 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and oil. Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani stated after the meeting that its purpose was to coordinate positions on current OPEC issues in particular and petroleum conditions in general.

In response to a question on whether the discussion at the meeting had dealt with petroleum production the minister said that the subject of petroleum production was not dealt with at all. The minister of petroleum and mineral affairs denied that the oil ministers had dealt with the subject of the Gulf Cooperation Council. [Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1320 GMT on 17 March reports that the three visiting oil ministers "left Riyadh this afternoon after a visit of a few hours to Saudi Arabia."]

JERUSALEM COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET 23 APR

LD161013 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 Mar 81 p 1

[By Idris Banai]

[Excerpt] Rabat--It has been decided to convene a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by King Hassan II, on Thursday, 23 April.

The same source [as published] added that the Islamic Conference Organization's Secretariat General in Jidda has been notified of the new date so it can be circulated to the committee member states. The same source said that during this meeting the committee will discuss the basic plan of action to confront the Zionist enemy which was approved by the third Islamic Conference summit held in At-Ta'if last January.

SOVIET AMITY GROUP AFFIRMS SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS

JN171818 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The chairman of the Soviet Committee of Friendship and Solidarity With the Arab Peoples of Palestine today affirmed the support of the Soviet Government and people for the Palestinian people's just cause until they achieve certain victory and establish their own independent state on all their national territory.

In a cable to Brother Majid Abu Sharar, Fatah Central Committee member and head of the Soviet-Palestinian Friendship Society in Lebanon, on the occasion of the opening of the society's headquarters, he added: Soviet public opinion greatly welcomed the start of the activities of the society's branch and the speech by the Palestinian revolution's commander at the opening of the headquarters as yet another proof of the march toward bolstering and developing friendship and cooperation between the Palestinian and Soviet peoples.

The chairman of the Soviet committee concluded: We would like to convey to you, on the behalf of the wide sectors of the Soviet public, our sincerest congratulations and best wishes for success in your just and noble struggle.

KUWAIT

PAPER CITES 'IRAQI SOURCE' ON STRIKE AGAINST IRAN

LD171329 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Baghdad--A high-ranking Iraqi source told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday that Iraq is currently planning a strong military strike against certain Iranian military installations and targets. Sophisticated Mirage planes, recently received by Iraq as part of a huge deal with France, will be used in these operations.

The source added that if Iran does not agree to Iraq's just conditions pertaining to its land and sea rights and return the occupied Arab territory and islands, Iraq will continue the war against the Iranian military targets relentlessly. The Iraqi Army has modern planes, armored vehicles and weapons which can change the course of the war during the present phase.

The source said that in its arms purchasing policy, Iraq does not rely on only one country. It purchases arms from all sources, both Eastern and Western countries. The Iraqi officers are capable of using modern arms because they have been trained in military colleges both in Iraq and abroad.

The Iraqi pilots have proved to be highly efficient in piloting Mirages. The Iraqi source said that Iraq, which has welcomed the Islamic and nonaligned states' mediation, has once so from a position of strength and a desire to end the fighting provided the Iranians respond to the just Iraqi demands and pan-Arab rights which have the support of all the states which love justice and peace.

UAE

PDRY PROTEST ON EXERCISES RAISES UNITY ISSUE

GF171710 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "These Holes--How Long Will They Continue?"]

[Text] The PDRY memorandum to the Arab League asserting that the Omani-U.S.-Egyptian joint exercises violated PDRY territory is further evidence of the serious gaps in Arab reglations. These are gaps that are widening daily thanks to the foreign powers that want such holes to be part of our life so that it can be easy for them to enter and cause further fragmentation and kindle sharp differences likely to exacerbate into armed border clashes.

Without having to discuss the issue raised by the PDRY, what we should not ignore is the belief by every country in the area that it has its own security and consequently needs to defend this security in the way it alone deems appropriate. This is a dangerous belief. Indeed, it is a belief that furthers division. The inevitable result will directly benefit the big foreign powers.

This does not mean that we are calling for a single defense system for the countries of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. We wish we were! Serious and well-studied measures should first be adopted within the framework of a conscious implementation of Arab solidarity. This is what we lack now. What the peoples of the area insist upon is that no country should rely on a foreign power for its defense--whether such protection is direct in the form of granting bases or indirect in the form of providing military facilities or by joining pacts and blocs dominated by the big powers.

It is true that each country has its security, but how can we talk about a united national [qawmi] stand if our concept of security is that it should be in confronting a neighboring fraternal Arab country?

Regrettably, this is the mistaken formula now prevailing in our nation. We must realize that the greater security is to close the gaps in our Arab relations--both those created by foreign powers that covet our wealth, oil and national soil or the holes we ourselves create when we imagine a threat to our borders from ourselves, and when we place unlimited confidence in a stranger whom we knew in preindependence days as a thief, an exploiter and an oppressor, and when we enable him to return with his armies and planes to strike at a fraternal Arab country from Arab land and waters.

Will we know the way to real security before a morning comes whose sun is blurred by the planes of rapid deployment? This is a question addressed to those who control our destiny--before this destiny is turned into holes riddled by the bullets of brothers or the bullets of invaders.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received the new UAE ambassador to the Republic of Pakistan, Sa'id 'Ali an-Nuways. He gave the official oath before the president on the occasion of his appointment. [Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Mar 81 GF]

PDRY

MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON GULF SUMMIT PROPOSAL

LD161144 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Mar (KUNA)--A South Yemeni minister said Monday that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait did not object to his country's proposal calling for a summit conference of the leaders of the Arab Gulf region and the Horn of Africa.

The Yemeni minister of state, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, added in an interview published here by Al-WATAN newspaper that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have supported the proposal, made earlier by President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and heard our viewpoint without showing any objection.

The minister left here for Bahrain last night in the course of a tour in the Gulf countries to deliver messages from his president to the leaders of these countries related to the proposal.

Kuwait did not fully support the proposal and the chief cabinet spokesman, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, stated recently that Kuwait was studying it.

The minister delivered messages from the Aden president to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

The minister denied that the Yemeni proposal was linked to proposals made in Moscow recently by the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev calling for keeping the Arab Gulf region away from the world power struggle. But he renewed his government's support for the Soviet proposals "and for any sincere call from any local or international party to keep the region from foreign military bases and world conflicts."

He disclosed that the proposed summit conference should discuss the existence of American military bases in some countries of the region like Somalia and Oman.

Minister 'Abd al-Wali denied that the proposed summit would be in conflict with the recently-formed Council for Gulf Cooperation but said, "all issues must be discussed at the regional level to ensure no intervention by an external party and not to allow any misinterpretation."

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, the minister reiterated his country's opposition to this war "because it damages interests and security of the region."

"We believe that outstanding problems should be settled through negotiations and dialogue," he said.

He added: "The two warring parties must understand the realities of the situation and the outcome of the devastating war."

MINISTER REAFFIRMS CALL FOR UNITY, SUMMIT MEETING

GF171620 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Kuwait--PDRY Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali has declared that "anyone who opposes Yemeni unity cannot be a true Arab or Muslim." He denied that the summit meeting of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa which the PDRY has called for is an extension of the Soviet call regarding the Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

In a statement to AL-KHALIJ he said that anyone who does not want Yemeni unity is in fact seeking to establish "states outside law, order and legality in North and South Yemen." He added: The union of the two parts of Yemen will be a magnificent model for Arab unity. He asserted that "Yemeni unity is a safeguard for the region's stability and security, while the division of Yemen is a factor that threatens this stability and security."

In reply to allegations linking the call by PDRY Supreme People's Council Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad for a summit meeting of Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa countries with Brezhnev's call last year regarding the security of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, the Yemeni minister said: We have sufficient reasons to make such a call because it is our extremities that are on fire.

PROTEST MEMO SENT TO ARAB LEAGUE ON OMAN EXERCISES

LD161550 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has sent an official memorandum to the secretary general of the Arab League asking that it be distributed to all member-states of the League.

The memorandum contained an explanation of the very serious developments taking place in the region of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf as a result of the U.S.-Egyptian-Omani military exercises which took place in Omani territory and posed a serious threat to the security, stability and sovereignty of the states and peoples in this region. The exercises were an actual confirmation of the aggressive intentions harbored by the United States toward the region's peoples and states.

The memorandum referred to aggressive provocation by the Omani forces on the eastern border of our region during the period of the U.S.-Egyptian-Omani military exercises and the links between these acts of provocation, the U.S. military exercises and the U.S. military presence in Oman.

The PDRY asked the Arab League to condemn the U.S.-Egyptian-Omani military exercises as they constituted an action which seriously endangered the safety, security and sovereignty of the states and peoples of the region.

'ALI EXPLAINS TRIP TO EUROPE BEFORE DEPARTURE

NC170721 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0644 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar, (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali left Cairo this morning for Oslo to convey a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to King Olav V of Norway and to invite him on behalf of President as-Sadat to visit Egypt. The deputy prime minister will also visit Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Sweden to convey messages from President Answar as-Sadat to the kings and presidents of these countries.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told MENA that the purpose of these visits is to clarify Egypt's views concerning the international problems in general and the Middle East problem in particular and Egypt's constant efforts for achieving peace in the area. The deputy prime minister added that he will discuss with the officials in these states the possibility of their participation in the multinational force which will be deployed in Sinai following the final Israeli withdrawal to the international boundaries, particularly since these states have a long experience in this field as a result of their participation in the UN emergency forces.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that during his tour he will meet with the foreign ministers of these countries to discuss aspects of mutual cooperation and bilateral relations and means for promoting them in various economic and cultural fields.

He said that he will return to Cairo on 3 April to welcome U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig who will arrive in Cairo on 4 April for talks at the Foreign Ministry followed by a working dinner with Vice President Husni Mubarak. Haig will meet President as-Sadat the following day.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali concluded his statement by saying that Haig's visit is part of his tour to five states in the Middle East, including Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and, possibly, Jordan.

TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED; ROMANIAN VISITOR LEAVES

Economic Protocol

AU172042 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1900 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (AGERPRES)--Proceedings concluded in Cairo of the 12th Romanian-Egyptian Joint Governmental Commission of Economic and Technical Cooperation. The protocol signed on the occasion stipulates measures for expanding and diversifying the economic collaboration and the trade exchanges between Romania and Egypt in industry, mining, oil, transports, constructions and agriculture.

The document was signed by Virgil Trofin, Romanian deputy prime minister, minister of mining, oil and geology, chairman for Romania in the commission, and by 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister, minister of planning, finance and economy, chairman of Egypt in the commission.

During the session Virgil Trofin met Egyptian economic officials and visited the (Tamrawayn) phosphate producing center, important economic objective of the Romanian-Egyptian cooperation, and the (Ras Shukhayr) oil zone in the Suez Gulf.

Romanian's Departure

NC171358 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)--Virgil Trofin, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of mines, petroleum and geology, left Cairo today, concluding a 1-week visit to Egypt.

While in Egypt Trofin attended the opening of the Cairo international fair and signed an Egyptian-Romanian protocol for technical and economic cooperation in the fields of communications, maritime transport, housing, agriculture, land reclamation, electricity and petroleum. He was seen off at the airport by Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Ion Iosefide.

COMMENTARY VIEWS STATEMENT BY ISRAEL'S ABBA EBAN

NC172057 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Hazim 'Abd ar-Rahman commentary: "Israel, the Palestinian People and the Middle East Crisis"]

[Text] Abba Eban, who will be Israel's foreign minister if the Israeli Labor Party wins the next general elections in Israel, today said that a Labor Party victory will entail a significant change in Israel's foreign policy. This change, Eban said, will set aside Israeli Prime Minister Begin's view that Israel must forever rule the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Labor Party, he added, supports the Jordanian option, under which Jordan would be given most of the West Bank.

We note here that Abba Eban named Jordan as the side which the Palestinian people must agree to join. The alternative, in Eban's words, is Israel's control of the West Bank. This evidently means depriving the Palestinian people in the West Bank of the right to self-determination. Thus, the Labor Party's reasoning as expressed by Eban means denying the Palestinian people this right.

We further note that Abba Eban himself said that this shift from the Likud line to the Labor Party line would lessen Israel's isolation in the world through the adoption of policies that appear logical to the international sides not directly connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict. This statement clearly indicates that the Labor Party's stance cannot possibly produce a settlement of the Palestine problem which, most world powers agree, cannot be solved without the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, especially the right to self-determination which would be meaningless unless the Palestinian people were guaranteed a free choice on their political fate.

It may be worthwhile here to remind Abba Eban, and other Labor Party leaders, of what Eban said after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. At that time he said that it was necessary to look for new political concepts that would open the way for all the peoples of the region to live like neighbors. We point this out because Eban's latest statement leaves no room for the Palestinian people.

We move on to add that the Israeli claim that the PLO wants to destroy Israel is groundless in every way and appears to be the creation of Israel itself, which is insisting on seeking to destroy the Palestinian people through all diplomatic, military and political means within the natural sequence of action and reaction.

As we underline the facts here, we call on the Palestinian people to come up with a practical concept of their legitimate rights and the method of achieving these rights. For example, the PLO raises the slogan of armed struggle. On the basis of figures, we say that the losses of the Palestinian people came mainly at the hands of Jordan and Syria, not Israel. Shouldn't this prompt us to call on the PLO to reconsider its concepts and methods in light of the prevailing conditions in the region so it can achieve its objectives with the minimum possible losses.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 278

JN171737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces have forced a tank-supported Iranian infantry force to retreat in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area after inflicting on the enemy 22 dead and destroying 1 tank, 3 vehicles and 1 rocket launcher. Communique No 278 issued by the Armed Forces General Command mentions that the Iraqi forces also destroyed four infantry positions and one observation post in the same area. The communique reports too that other forces opened fire on enemy concentrations and positions in Abadan, inflicting on them various losses. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in their operational sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Six dead and the destruction of one excavator and three vehicles in Nowsud.
B. Enemy concentrations were sighted in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. Our forces shelled them with artillery and mortar shells and forced them to flee leaving behind 18 dead. Our forces also destroyed four infantry positions in the same area.
C. Seven dead and the destrucion of two infantry position, one tank and one excavator in Gilan-e Gharb.
D. Two dead in the Sumar area.
E. Eight dead opposite our units in Sayf Sa'd.
F. Four dead and the destruction of two vehicles, one carrying enemy personnel, in Mehran.
G. Four dead in the Shush area.
H. One of our units engaged an enemy infantry force backed by tanks with all kinds of weapons in the Khafajiyah area and forced it to retreat after inflicting on the enemy 22 dead and destroying 1 tank, 3 vehicles and 1 rocket launcher. Our forces also destroyed four infantry positions and one observation post in the same area.
I. One dead in Avhaz.
J. Our forces shelled enemy concentrations and positions in Abadan and inflicted on the enemy the following losses: 15 dead, and the destrucion of 1 tank, one armed personnel carrier, 1 vehicle, two guns and 1 observation post.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, three vehicles and one rocket launcher were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 March 1981

ADDITION TO DEFENSE MINISTER KHAYRALLAH INTERVIEW

The following is an addition to the item entitled "Defense Minister Views Iran War, Soviet Support," published in the 17 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, page 5:

On page E 6, after the fifth paragraph insert:

AL-HAWADITH: You have announced that you have begun diversifying the sources of your armament. How did you manage to break the arms monopoly? Is the purchase of arms from the black market or the legal market internationally recognized? [as published]

Khayrallah: As I have said, our main source of armament is the Soviet bloc. We also deal with our French friends and with most of the socialist bloc countries. In the past period Iraq has built international relations and achieved a great international reputation. We have many friends; both distant and near [countries] now seek out Iraq. We have exploited these good and amicable relations with the friendly countries; we have exploited them well during the war.

We will not let the Iraqi soldier's hand be forced while waiting for the main arms supplier to provide or not to provide. We have knocked at friends' doors and the response has been very good. I assure you that we have no arms or equipment problem.

AL-HAWADITH: President Saddam Husayn also said that you purchase arms from all sources with the exception of Zionist sources. Do you also buy arms directly from the United States?

Khayrallah: Nothing will stop us when national honor is at stake. Nevertheless, so far we have not knocked at America's doors. I say this with all honesty. Nor has the United States made an offer to us.

AL-HAWADITH: We have heard that brokers are offering to purchase arms for you from the United States and the European countries.

Khayrallah: From the European countries, yes, but not from the United States. But should we need arms and should we obtain them from the United States we will announce this before the others talk about it.

TARIQ 'AZIZ LEAVES 17 MAR FOR TALKS IN PARIS

JN171500 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Paris today on an official visit to France for talks on bilateral relations, the situation in the region and international issues of mutual interest.

Before his departure Tariq 'Aziz said that his visit comes within the context of the developed bilateral relations in all fields and the two governments' eagerness to continue developing these relations and to continue their consultations on current international issues.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES DETERIORATING SITUATION

NC171842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has held contacts with the security commands, and after studying the situation, pointed out the need to find a solution to the traffic crisis resulting from the security situation.

In a series of meetings various topics were tackled, including the demands of the trade unions of newspaper proprietors and editors. The meeting with the dean of editors, Milhim Karam, turned into a seminar, during which Al-Wazzan answered questions on various issues.

In reply to a question on the causes of the deterioration in the security situation, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] My interpretation of the question is the same as I said yesterday in a television interview. When we get close to achieving accord, we are surprised by a deterioration in the situation. Those who want to abort an accord, even before it is achieved, escalate the situation, disturb the people and disrupt (?security). Thus, I have called on the citizens to raise a strong weapon, a weapon that I consider to be the most important, namely, awareness of all events in Lebanon. We now need to surmount all difficulties and to use the weapon of awareness in the face of everyone in order to prove that we are capable of achieving accord despite all events. [end recording]

UN SPOKESMAN DENIES CHARGES BY MILITIA, ISRAEL

NC172134 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The UNIFIL spokesman in southern Lebanon told reporters in the area today that the UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon yesterday and today sent Irish and Netherlands forces to the Al-Qantarah sector.

He categorically denied claims by the border militia spokesman that UNIFIL artillery had shelled Al-Qulay'ah and Marj 'Uyun. He said that the UNIFIL mission is purely defensive and that the reinforcement was carried out only for the protection of the Nigerian contingent.

A calm but tense atmosphere prevailed today in the UNIFIL area of operations. With the exception of the movement of military vehicles, the roads were completely deserted. In view of the situation, the Fijian troops who watch over the entrance to the UNIFIL area of operations were ordered to ban the movement of people. Barricades were erected in various places to protect the positions from militia shelling, according to an Irish officer.

Meanwhile, the UNIFIL commander, Gen William Callaghan, commenting on the shelling of Al-Qantarah, said: These acts of violence will not frighten us. He added that the UNIFIL forces are capable of defending themselves with the weapons they possess.

Callaghan denied Israeli Chief of Staff General Eytan's claim that the UNIFIL forces are trying to provoke the militias and that the UNIFIL forces do not understand the situation.

KHADDAM VIEWS DUBAYY INCIDENT, OTHER ISSUES

GF171015 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 15 Mar 81 p 11

[Interview granted by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to the UAE newspapers AL-KHALIJ, AL-BAYAN and AL-WAHDAH on 14 March 1981 at Al-Khubayrah Palace in Abu Dhabi]

[Excerpt] Question: What is Syria's stand on the incident that took place in Dubayy [bomb attack on Syrian restaurant in Dubayy on 2 March 1981], taking into consideration that the evidence indicates Syrian involvement in the action?

Answer: In all its policies and dealings, Syria's stand stems from a broad and deep vision and not from narrowminded reactions or obscure stands. By analyzing the situation in the Arab world, the situation in the region and the situation in the entire world, we appreciate the importance of settlement, security and peace in the Gulf region. Thus, all our stands, policies and activities stem from this principle. For this reason the voices that tried to harm Syria by carrying out this incident are indeed notorious voices. They want to harm Syria and the deep relations between the UAE and Syria and between Shaykh Zayid and President Hafiz al-Asad. I assure you that these attempts were carried out by notorious sources that want to undermine the nationalist role Syria has adopted in confronting the Israeli enemy. You all know well that Syria alone is performing this role and is holding itself responsible for accomplishing it. I want to stress that Syria considers settlement and security in the Gulf region to be closely linked to nationalist values.

Question: It has been said that the primary investigations have revealed that Syria is most probably involved in what happened in Dubayy.

Answer: This is totally false. We are prepared to approve the formation of an investigation committee to expose those responsible for the incident and those who planned the plot and to disclose who was meant by the plot.

Question: Who do you believe was responsible for the Dubayy incident?

Answer: I believe it must be those who are interested in disrupting relations between Syria and the UAE. They want to harm Syria. They expect negative Syrian reactions on the detention of some of the Syrian plane's crewmembers, on the bad treatment they had received and on the humiliation dealt to them and to their country. I believe this is who is responsible.

Question: What is the latest development in Syrian-Jordanian relations, and how do you interpret the opinion that the war between Syria and Jordan may extend to other Arab arenas?

Answer: A war between Syria and Jordan does not exist. The Jordanian people are part of us. You know that not long ago--and before the Sykes-Picot agreement--the Jordanian people had always been a part of us and will always remain so. We shall always view Jordanian citizens as we view Syrian citizens. However, we have adopted a stand against the Jordanian regime that is performing the role it has been playing since it was installed.

Question: What are the real reasons for this disagreement?

Answer: The disagreement is over the Palestinian question. It was Syria that decisively and strongly opposed the Camp David policy. It was Syria that had always played a primary role in the Arab conferences in order to besiege the Camp David plot. It is Syria now that is the obstacle that is hindering Camp David and is preventing all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian question. If Syria says "yes" to this policy, then no more problems remain to achieving the liquidation. For this reason a "Syrian yes" has a significance and a "Syrian no" has a significance too. They want to change Syria's position to a "yes." Jordan's role is to engage Syria, cancel its role and change its "no" to a "yes." This is the main reason.

Question: What are the results of the Saudi efforts to contain the disputes, especially after the escalation of disagreement following the abduction of the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut?

Answer: It surprises me that the issue of Al-Muhaysin is raised in the question. The problem between us and the Jordanian regime existed long before Jordanian intelligence hid Al-Muhaysin or abducted him. The problem began long before Al-Muhaysin disappeared. If you review the facts, you will realize the aim of this process. The Phalangist radio carried the news, and less than a hour later a Jordanian communique was issued accusing the Syrians without even waiting to see what was going to be said in Beirut on the issue. Then a campaign was launched against Syria. The aim of this process is: 1) to absorb the tantrum that exists in Jordan in opposition to the regime's anti-Syrian policy and 2) an attempt to create tension in the Lebanese arena. I want to inform you that it was the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut that asked the commander of the Syrian unit in the Arab Deterrent Forces to withdraw his unit that was in charge of guarding the embassy.

Question: What is Syria's stand on the European initiative?

Answer: The Europeans have said that they do not have an initiative. However, they are trying to help find the means that may provide a suitable environment for negotiations among the various parties. We have made our stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict known to them.

Question: Does Syria have any intention of holding contacts with the new U.S. administration and in view of its policy in the region, how pleased are you with the new U.S. administration?

Answer: Anyway, it has been said that "the title conveys the meaning of a message." The title of the new U.S. administration is clear and so is the content of the message. Its decision the day before yesterday to offer five nuclear reactors to Israel and to participate in financing the project of the canal that will link the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea proves that a message can be conveyed in the title. To us this matter has always been clear, but we hope that it will also be clear to our brothers, who may be thinking of chosing the U.S. path.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH VISITING CUBAN WOMEN'S GROUP

JN161723 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA)--The joint statement issued on the visit to Syria by the Cuban women's delegation stressed that the Middle East problem can be solved only by giving the Palestinians their rights on their free and independent national homeland under the leadership of the PLO and by regaining all occupied Arab lands. The statement explained that the Cuban and Syrian women's federations struggle together against all forms of imperialism, racism and apartheid.

The Cuban delegation expressed satisfaction with Syria's [word indistinct], social and political achievements under the 8 March revolution, particularly after the corrective movement.

The Syrian and Cuban women's federations signed a cooperation agreement for the years 1981 and 1982 today. The agreement stresses the need to strengthen and develop the two federations in order to support the struggle of the progressive women of the world and the distinguished role played by the woman in the Arab liberation movement. The agreement also provides for the exchange of delegations between the two federations in order to get acquainted with the experience of women in both of the friendly countries and the exchange of documents, magazines, films and everything that highlights the activities of the federations.

The Cuban women's delegation left Syria today after a 1-week visit to Syria made at the invitation of the Syrian Women's General Federation.

BEGIN SENDS REAGAN LETTER ON SINAI FORCE

TA171555 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The prime minister has sent a letter to President Regan stating that Israel regards the formation of a multinational force in Sinai as a condition for the completion of its withdrawal from the region. This was stated today in a meeting of the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, which was discussing MK Moshe Dayan's motion for the agenda by which the agreement on the supervision arrangements would be brought for Knesset approval before it is signed. The foreign minister expressed his personal agreement to this idea but said the government would state its official position on the issue in the future.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION

TA171314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today that the main reason for the tension in southern Lebanon is the presence of terrorists in that region who are equipped with the best weapons. Mr Begin is ready to meet with official representatives of the Lebanese Government in order to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon, which has worsened since the arrival there of the Lebanese Army soldiers. The prime minister and defense minister stressed that Israel's involvement in the region is in line with its own security needs and he expressed satisfaction at the statement by the United States that Israel is not to blame for the recent incidents in southern Lebanon.

Mr Begin expressed his sorrow at yesterday's incidents, adding that the Israeli Government commiserated with the families of the Nigerian soldiers who were killed in the shellings. The prime minister added that he had spoken yesterday with the chief of staff on the incidents in southern Lebanon and they had reached agreement that every effort would be made so that such incidents do not recur. Mr Begin spoke at a news conference in Qiryat Shemona. The prime minister today visited Qiryat Shemona and Tel Hay.

Further Report

TA171847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Alan Ben-'Ami Report from Qiryat Shemona--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ben-'Ami] In the course of an impromptu press conference during a tour of Qiryat Shemona, the prime minister said that Israel wants to express its deep regret for what he called the tragic accident in the death of two UNIFIL soldiers. I asked the prime minister: What about charges that Israel was in some way responsible because it was supplying Major Haddad and his south Lebanese militia with military arms and equipment?

[Begin] No, Israel is not to be blamed at all. The United States, for instance, made a declaration which I read that if there should be a paragraph in the resolution of the Security Council condemning Israel, the United States will be against it, because they deny any proof that Israel has any part in that accident. As far as the Christian minority is concerned, we of course help them just not to be destroyed by the so-called PLO, which got lately 50 tanks from the Soviet Union, in addition to the previous tanks they got. And from time to time they try, really, to hurt, to kill, to maim the Christian minority in southern Lebanon. We cannot acquiesce in the destruction of a religious or a national minority--under no circumstances. And this is the main reason for the trouble in Lebanon.

[Ben-'Ami] Asked about the remark by Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres that he favored reducing Israeli military activity against the terrorists in southern Lebanon, the prime minister was sharply critical.

[Begin] I don't know whether the spokesman of the Labor Party knows exactly about what he is talking. What is the activities of Israel--against somebody, anybody [word indistinct]? It is a matter of first of all saving the Christian minority from the danger of destruction and secondly of preventing the terrorists of the so-called PLO to come to Israel and kill our men, women and children. So, I don't know about what anybody can mean in saying it should be reduced.

[Ben-'Ami] Questioned about Israel's attitude toward Lebanese Army movements in the south, the prime minister said that there was an agreement between all the groups involved and the Lebanese Army, which should be respected. He did not say what that agreement was.

PERES TERMS U.S. DECISION ON AWACS 'MISTAKE'

TA171700 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Israel must demand that the United States not dispatch weapons to Saudi Arabia as long as that country does not join the peace process with Israel. This was stated today by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres in a news conference with UN correspondents in Geneva. The U.S. decision to supply AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, he said, is a mistake that will plunge the region into a renewed arms race.

Peres attacked the European initiative, saying that the European countries were referring to an imaginary organization in their comments about the PLO, not to the PLO's acts and decisions. For its part, the PLO makes statements for publication and some not for publication, and Europe wants to believe that precisely what is not for publication is more representative of the organization.

Peres said that Europe must understand that if it comes across as a pro-Arab element it will not be able to play a part in resolving the conflict, and that even if all the European papers write critically of Israel, Israel will continue to exist. Peace is made between two sides and support for just one side will make it more remote.

Asked why Israel does not sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, Peres replied that this could be done only after the region's safety is assured. As long as there is no peace and there are countries like Libya and Iraq, Israel would become a victim if it signed the treaty. At the same time, Peres stressed that Israel would not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

COMPENSATION TO BE SOUGHT FOLLOWING AWACS SALE

TA171124 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 81 p 1

[By political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Government-level discussions will soon take place in Jerusalem regarding the scope and type of compensation that Israel will demand of the United States in the wake of the sale of "AWACS" intelligence aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Various Cabinet members believe that a new position should be formulated as soon as possible regarding the type of compensation Israel merits in view of the U.S. administration's intention to supply sophisticated intelligence aircraft to Saudi Arabia. In their opinion, Israel cannot make do with military equipment competitive with the U.S. equipment provided to Saudi Arabia.

Instead, Israel should pose another type of demand for compensation. Among other things, senior government officials have mentioned possible financial compensation, easier conditions for exporting Israeli weapons, joint technological development and so forth.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will arrive in the region on 5 April. The talks that will be held with him in Jerusalem may also touch upon this issue.

MARCH POLL SHOWS LIKUD-LABOR GAP SHRINKING

TA130955 Jerusalem POST in English 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Tel Aviv--One month to the Histadrut elections and four months to the Knesset poll, the gap is shrinking between the Likud and Labor, and a new list led by Moshe Dayan would net 15 percent of the total vote.

The above emerges from the March Jerusalem POST poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Reserach Centre among a representative selection of 1,285 adults.

Party	March	Poll	Jan/Feb	Poll
	MK's	%	MK's	%
Likud	25	20.6	20	16.9
Labor	52	43.5	58	48.6
NRP	11	9.3	11	9.4
Aguda bloc	6	4.9	5	4.6
Shinuy	2	1.2	2	1.7
Tehiya	3	2.4	4	2.9
Others	21	18.1	20	15.8

Question. If an independent list headed by Moshe Dayan were to contest elections, how would you vote?

	MK's	%
Likud	20	16.7
Labor	45	37.6
NRP	10	8.3
Aguda bloc	6	4.6
Shinuy	1	0.7
Tehiya	3	2.1
Dayan's list	19	15.4
Others	16	14.6

The undecided voters are fluid, standing this month at 23.9 percent uncommitted, 11.7 percent who won't vote and 6.1 percent who won't say, compared to last month's 25.9 percent uncommitted, 7.4 percent who won't vote and 3.4 percent won't say.

If a Dayan list should appear, the undecided bloc would shrink by 8.6 percent. A Dayan list would take five seats from the Likud, seven seats from Labor, one from the NRP, one from Shinuy and five from those currently undecided.

Dayan's prime appeal is among the 23-30 age group, oriental communities, sabras [persons born in Israel] and Middle-education and middle-income groups.

ALGERIA

MOROCCO DENOUNCED FOR 'AGGRESSION' IN MAURITANIA

APS Commentary

LD171220 Algiers APS in English 1123 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 17 Mar (APS)--An attempted coup d'etat was thwarted, on Monday morning, in Mauritania of which premier precised that "it was undertaken by a commando arranged and armed by Morocco". This aggression gives evidence once again, that the Moroccan monarchist regime's expansionist aims towards the forced annexation of Western Sahara (?is) only a step (?for the) "reconquest" of Mauritania.

This aggression against a sovereign country which is a member of the OAU, the Arab League and of the U.N.O. proves that Rabat, which issued on a dead-lock, militarily and diplomatically, because of its expansionist venture against the Saharan people, is pursuing a dangerous policy which threatens peace and security within this region of Africa.

In another development, it must be stressed that the Moroccan regime threats have given an occasion for the Mauritanian Government and people to reaffirm their determination to preserve their sovereignty, independence and the national dignity. The Nouakchott authorities drew, some days ago, the attention of the international community upon Rabat threats through the Mauritanian prime minister who denounced, three days ago, "King Hassan II's intention to launch an aggression (?against) Mauritania."

In this respect, Algeria was right (?while) it informed, on Saturday, the heads of diplomatic mission accredited to Algiers.

The attempted coup d'etat against Mauritania only strengthens [words indistinct] the world opinion: Rabat regime is playing a destabilizing role in the Maghreb. Let's also state that this new venture is (?another) [word indistinct] (?in) a plan aiming at [words indistinct] neocolonialist powers' pay. But, the African people remain vigilant, and their will of independence is to make them thwart the attempts of destabilization.

Every man, who is keen on peace, freedom and justice and who has condemned foreign interventions on other regions, within our continent, or elsewhere, must, today, react and answer positively to the appeal launched by the Mauritanian premier into the United Nations Security Council, the Arab League, and the Organisation of African Unity so they stop the aggression of Morocco against Mauritania.

As for Algeria which is keen on the OAU Charter principles, it denounces this aggression and reaffirms its support to the Mauritanian Government and people.

Radio Account

LD171534 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] APS has commented on the abortive coup in Mauritania. Under the headline "Enough Aggression and Expansion" APS writes:

This mean attempt confirms the armed threats to which Mauritania has been exposed since it withdrew honorably from the Sahara war, leaving the Moroccan regime alone to fight the Saharan people. This aggression further confirms the expansionist ambitions of the royalist Moroccan regime, which considers the annexation of the Sahara by force as only a step toward the reinvasion of Mauritania.

This attempt derives its roots from the old dream of the so-called greater Maghreb. It seeks to devour the territories of the Mauritanian state in order to reach the banks of the Senegal River.

Mauritania has been chosen for the purpose because of its exposure in the past to the repeated ambitions of Rabat, both before and after its independence. The Moroccan Government has tried by all means to impede Mauritanian independence.

For the sake of right and truth, and for the sake of history, it must be stated here that despite the attitudes of international public opinion in general and of African public opinion in particular, the Rabat regime has refused to adapt itself to the realities of the national Mauritanian condition.

Morocco prepared the ground for today's [as heard] attempt by a wide-scale press campaign and by intensive royalist diplomatic activity. The attempt provides additional proof that Morocco has not yet ridded itself of the historical aggressive intentions it harbors toward Mauritania.

This aggression has been committed against a sovereign country which is a member of the OAU, the Arab League and the United Nations. It proves that the Rabat regime, which finds itself in a military and diplomatic crisis because of its expansionist adventure against the Saharan people, is still determined not to pursue a realistic line and to continue with the policy of running away forward [as heard], which threatens peace and security in this part of Africa.

It should be stated on the other hand that the threats and actions of the Rabat regime, instead of destroying the determination of the Mauritanian people and government, have actually provided them with the opportunity to reaffirm their determination to safeguard Mauritania's sovereignty, independence and national prestige. Out of its adherence to its national independence, the Nouakchott authorities in the past few days have clearly drawn the attention of the world community to the threats uttered by the Rabat regime. Only 3 days ago the Mauritanian prime minister denounced without reservation the intentions of King Hassan II. These intentions have now been confirmed by the aggression on Mauritania. Nevertheless, in an attempt to deceive world public opinion and to create the most favorable conditions for aggression on Mauritania, the Moroccan foreign minister has most insolently denied the existence of such threats.

Thus, Algeria was right when it summoned the heads of foreign diplomatic missions in Algeria last Saturday and informed them of the gravity of the situation.

As has been noticed quite frequently before and particularly today, the Moroccan regime receives great encouragement for its aggressive actions from some big powers which have nothing better to do than to bolster the regime's war arsenal, thereby contradicting their own principles and utterances. Through today's new aggression it is evident that those who provide the aggressor regime with arms and funds must shoulder a large measure of responsibility. This responsibility is also shouldered equally and with the same gravity by those who provide the regime with encouraging documents, as the European Parliament did recently, thereby treading on the peoples' freedom and right to self-determination.

In view of all this, it is difficult to attribute things to mere accident. The coup attempt in Mauritania only increases the conviction of world public opinion that the Rabat regime seeks to disturb the area's stability contrary to the will of our peoples, who seek to build a Maghreb of peace and prosperity.

It is an established fact, APS says, that the new adventure falls within the framework of a plan aimed at setting up regimes in Africa that will serve the forces of imperialism and neo-imperialism. But this plan overlooks two basic factors: the vigilance of the African peoples and their adherence to independence. These factors are capable of thwarting the repeated attempts to cause instability and the designs to repeat the imperialist invasion, whether directly or through agents.

All lovers of peace, freedom and justice who have condemned foreign interventions in other parts of Africa and outside it are today called upon to respond to the appeal made by the Mauritanian prime minister, who called on the UN Security Council, the Arab League and the OAU to intervene to put an end to the Moroccan aggression against Mauritania.

Algeria, which is primarily concerned with the safeguarding of peace in the region and which upholds the principles of respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the peoples and which also upholds the OAU Charter, considers it necessary to most strongly denounce this mean aggression and to reassure the fraternal Mauritanian people of its full support for them and for their government.

Africa, which rejects the return of the era of empires out of its desire to safeguard the borders of its countries, will for its part know how to derive historic lessons from this new flagrant aggression which is condemned by international law and the practice of international relations.

ALGERIA HOSTS PDRY PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

LD180042 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Muhammad ash-Sharif Musa'idiyyah, member of the Central Committee and official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, today received at the (Zayghud) Yusuf Palace a PDRY parliamentary delegation headed by Ali Ahmad, member of the Presidium and chairman of the Presidium Foreign Relations Committee.

During the meeting, a review took place of the latest developments in the Arab area and especially northwest Africa. The two sides affirmed the need to make more efforts to foil all conspiracies hatched against the progressive Arab forces. The two sides also noted that the foreign military presence in the Gulf area constitutes a source of anxiety and affects the security and stability of the area's countries.

On the other hand, the two sides affirm the need to intensify such direct meetings and strengthen the ties of cooperation between the two parties and the two countries in various fields.

LIBYA

FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU STATEMENT ON MAURITANIA

LD180054 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday issued a statement in connection with the attempt which was carried out by elements supported by Morocco to overthrow the Mauritanian Government. The statement said:

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has been following with great concern news of the abortive coup which was attempted by some fascist elements in collusion with the hireling and imperialist-backed regime in Morocco. While strongly denouncing this treacherous attempt, which was aimed at the freedom and independence of fraternal Mauritania and attempted to undermine its independence and security, the Jamahiriyah reaffirms its stand most strongly alongside the Mauritanian people and their government and its support for it.

It declares that any aggression against Mauritania is aggression against the Jamahiriyyah. It would also like to record the Jamahiriyyah people's appreciation for the fraternal Mauritanian people and congratulate them for the awakening they have shown by rallying around their leadership in this trial and their strong opposition to this conspiracy and their success in nipping it in the bud.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES PDRY, MAURITANIAN ENVOYS

LD180052 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Yesterday the brother leader received Brother Salih Muslih Zasim, member of the Central Committee and PDRY minister of interior, who conveyed to him a message from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council.

The brother leader yesterday evening also received brother Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahmoud, member of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Salvation, who delivered to him a written message from President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalah, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation.

AL-QADHDHAFI ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF CAVALRY FORCE

LD180436 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The brother leader has announced the formation of the popular cavalry force as a step along the road of the emergence of the people's militarization. He explained in a meeting with hundreds of cavalrymen who took part in the popular cavalry festival, held to mark the 4th anniversary of the emergence of the people's authority and the birth of the Jamahiriyah, that thousands of cavalrymen will join the banner of this force in all parts of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. They will be trained in the use of all types of weapons according to their abilities and standards. The care of the cavalrymen and their horses will cover all regions of the Jamahiriyah.

The leader said that in this way a new popular armed force has come into being to defend the revolution, realize its aims and protect the people's authority. The force will consist of revue units with combat horses with weapons; in the use of which the force will be trained. The JANA reporter learned that Col Ali al-Fayturi has been entrusted with the task of forming and supervizing this force.

The cavalrymen who took part in the popular festival of horsemanship, held at the cavalry school on the road to Tripoli international airport, sent a message to the brother leader in which they expressed their loyalty and readiness to sacrifice themselves for the sake of the Great 1 September Revolution and strengthening the people's authority.

The cavalrymen staged a march of support for what the leader stated at the meeting. They expressed pride and happiness over the giant achievements which have been realized on the soil of the Jamahiriyah and which have astounded the world.

It is worth noting that a grand popular horsemanship festival will be held in Benghazi in celebration of the 11th anniversary of the expulsion of British bases from Libyan Arab soil.

MAURITANIA

MATERIALS ON AFTERMATH OF 16 MAR COUP ATTEMPT

AFP Account of Attempt

AB171832 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Mar (AFP)--A picture of the attempted coup d'etat in Mauritania yesterday began to emerge here today, as meanwhile the event triggered a series of swift diplomatic moves in northwest Africa.

Seven people died and two were wounded, it is now believed, after two commando groups in Landrovers moved in and attempted to seize the Presidency and army headquarters in Nouakchott at 0000 GMT.

Soon after the attempt was foiled, Prime Minister Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara accused Morocco of being behind it--a charge vigorously denied in Rabat--and today Mauritania broke diplomatic relations with Morocco. A communique said the decision followed deep examination of the situation created by Morocco's attempt to overthrow the regime by a gang of traitors in its pay which it organised, trained and armed to that end.

Algeria last night warned Morocco it would strongly oppose its policy of escalation tending to increase tension, to extend the zone of hostilities and to strike at Mauritania's independence and stability. And today, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid sent two envoys to Nouakchott for talks with Mauritania's head of state, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala.

Mauritanian Information Minister Ahmedou Ould Sidi Henena for his part said that the commando came from Senegal. There was no immediate reaction from Dakar but observers there saw the accusation as grave in its apparent implications.

The plan of the would-be putschists, both former members of the Military Committee for National Salvation which has ruled Mauritania since the overthrow of President Mokhtar Ould Daddah in July 1978, was to capture all its members.

The committee had been scheduled to be meeting at the time they (?struck), but the two plot leaders, ex-Lieutenant-Colonels Ahmed Saleh Ould Sidi and Mohamed Ould Ba Ould Abdel Kader, did not know the meeting had been postponed.

The group which went to the Presidency, led by ex-Lt. Col. Ould Sidi, found neither any member of the ruling committee nor civilian Prime Minister Ould Bneijara, who was not in his office in the building. They therefore went to the radio station and were recording a declaration by their leader when they were interrupted by guards. The information minister said that the declaration asked Morocco to send planes to help the attackers.

Meanwhile, the other commando which had gone to army headquarters seized the military office chief and the head of the army, Lieutenant-Colonel Maouya Ould Taya, but the latter escaped by jumping out of a window. Loyal soldiers launched teargas grenades in the building which allowed Lt. Col. Ould Taya to escape and take command of the counter-assault in the absence of the head of state, who was in the north of the country.

Two hours after the attack was launched, the last hostages taken were freed and the two leaders had been captured. Mr. Abdel Kader reportedly tried to kill himself by swallowing poison but was saved by doctors. The two conspirators, who during their exile helped found an alliance for a democratic Mauritania, had both been tried in their absence, Mr. Abdel Kader being sentenced to death and Mr. Ould Sidi to 20 years jail.

This morning, after a calm night following the imposition of a curfew, the dozens of spectators who went to the Presidency were greeted by a battle-field scene. The main entrance to the Presidency was littered with spent ammunition, the pock-marks of bullets were everywhere, right up to the prime minister's waiting room, and many doors were smashed. Not far away, the remains of a blood stain.

One highly-placed official told how he paid no attention to the first sounds of gunfire. Then two haggard-looking young men burst into his office and asked his name. One said: Did you know that you have been condemned to death? The official, who replied that he did not know, was among the last hostages to be released.

Exile's Statement on Cause

AB172203 Paris AFP in French 1818 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 17 Mar (AFP)--In a communique handed to AFP in Dakar where he resides, Mr Ismael Ould Amar, who was the first managing director of the Mauritanian National Industrial and Mining Corporation, has called for a political solution to Mauritania's problems. According to the communique, the 16 March coup attempt shows clearly how far despair can drive lost soldiers. It goes on, saying that one must not forget that the event which is of current interest finds its justification in the continuous wrangling among rival military factions, which has been going on for more than 2 years and which results in repeated eliminations.

Those who help the army--whether internally or externally--to carry on such practices are betraying the interests of Mauritania. In conclusion, Mr Ould Amar says that it is high time the army should understand the need to get out of the internal quagmire, in which it has let itself remain for much longer than has been necessary.

Mr Ould Amar already attempted to found a political party in Mauritania in March 1979, but he was not given an authorization. He was subsequently put under house arrest, then released and managed to get to Dakar. In December, when it was announced in Nouakchott that a constitution providing for a multiparty system was under preparation, he called for the actual implementation of the reform.

Union's Support

AB180955 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The permanent secretary of the Union of Mauritanian Workers has sent the following motion to the national leadership:

At a time when our country has become the target of an act of aggression organized by the expansionist Moroccan regime, the National Bureau of the Union of Mauritanian Workers:

1. Is happy to stand on your side to fight our country's enemies to preserve the unity, sovereignty and independence of our country.
2. Calls on all the workers of Mauritania to mobilize themselves so that our organization constitutes the vanguard for the struggle our people are waging against internal and external enemies.
3. Orders that a march of support be organized throughout the country for the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government, under the auspices of regional and departmental unions, on Saturday, 21 March as from 1500 hours.
4. Decides to call on the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, [words indistinct] and other international trade unions to condemn this dastardly Moroccan aggression.
5. Asks for the organization of a national mourning for the valiant martyrs dastardly murdered by the hired assassins.

Other motions of support from all corners of the country have been received by the national leadership.

Praise for Radio Staff

AB180950 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Mr Ahmedou Ould Sidi, minister of information and telecommunications, yesterday visited the broadcasting house, accompanied by Mr (Barry Mamadou), secretary general of the department. During this visit the minister congratulated the staff of radio Mauritania for the courage and patriotism they showed during difficult moments of the criminal operations carried out by the gang of mercenaries in the pay of Morocco. Employees of radio Mauritania [words indistinct] to the failure of that dreadful operation.

Anti-Moroccan Commentary

AB171626 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Moroccan regime yesterday perpetrated an attack on our country, thus confirming once more its expansionist aim of annexing Mauritania in order to fulfill a very old dream of the Moroccan throne. In this respect, the Moroccan attack yesterday is convincing proof to those who still doubted the Machiavellian intentions of Rabat. It is also a link in a long chain of sinister maneuvers and treachery whose vile aim is to annex Mauritania to Morocco, which, according to the king's plans, will then extend from the Atlantic to the Senegal River, or at least he hoped by this attack to obtain a regime owing allegiance to him, totally committed in its moves and adopting his expansionist inclinations, which have now been unmasked forever.

In fact, this cowardly attack falls wholly within the framework of a succession of inimical plots and maneuvers which haunt the Moroccan king's mind. But then it is high time that his majesty became aware of the [word indistinct] of the people's will, a will which will always serve as a solid wall against which will break all the criminal and ignominious attacks he has continually been concocting against our peaceful people, a people whose only crime is that of refusing any form of protectorate or annexation. Is it necessary to remind him that this freely adopted determination showed up in the face of the war into which he dragged our country in order to serve his expansionist intentions and ideals, and also in the face of the occupation by his armed forces of the northern regions of Mauritania, under the cover of that same war? It also remained unshakeable in the face of the droning of fighter planes and the rattling of arms in the skies of Bounouar and in the face of innumerable threats of all kinds. With this same invincible will, our people yesterday valiantly repelled the Moroccan attack. It relied on its own strength and did not seek the aid of anyone, but rather mobilized itself behind its national armed forces, thus succeeding in saving the country from the demon of destruction, withdrawing it from an unfair war and providing it with uncountable gains on the path of progress.

With the same determination the people courageously faced and crushed this criminal attack. Our armed forces, strengthened by their faith in their fatherland and the unconditional support of the popular masses, are capable of frustrating all the plots directed by the Moroccan Kingdom against our people and their desire for democracy and liberty. The blood of our dear sons, which flowed yesterday on our sacred land, will be a black mark on the Moroccan [words indistinct]. History will not forgive Morocco. We will become more determined and strong. In memory of these martyrs, we promise to resist expansionism and hegemony until our last drop of blood.

Once more we reiterate to the Moroccan Kingdom that the courage of our national armed forces and our people's will will always be steadfast in the face of these plots [words indistinct] and will constitute a natural protective wall to ward off the fanciful dreams of his majesty.

INA Reports Arrests

JN171401 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Mar (INA)--The Mauritanian authorities today arrested new elements, including a former minister, who were proven to have connection with yesterday's abortive coup attempt. The INA correspondent in Nouakchott said today that among those arrested is Col Viah Ould Mayouf, former minister of equipment in the government of former President Colonel Ould Saleck, in addition to a number of merchants.

Citing informed sources in the Mauritanian capital, the correspondent said that Col Viah Ould Mayouf was scheduled to assume the post of head of state in the first government formation in case the coup attempt succeeded.

On the other hand, Ahmedou Ould Sidi, minister of information and telecommunications, revealed in a statement broadcast over Mauritanian radio today that three Landrovers entered the country via the Senegal River under the leadership of Ould Abdel Kader and Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi. He added that the commando forces occupying these cars were well trained and their target were the lives of the head of state, the prime minister, the chief of staff and the members of the Military Committee. He pointed out that the Mauritanian authorities had arrested these commando forces.

The Mauritanian minister announced that Ould Abdel Kader, leader of the attempt, is still alive and in the hands of the government authorities after he had been rescued from a suicide attempt with poison following the failure of his attempt yesterday. He added that life had returned to normal in Mauritania and that the curfew had been shortened to 1900 until 0600. He said that the state departments will resume work tomorrow.

ALGERIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN NOUAKCHOTT 17 MAR

AB172025 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Mr Ahmed Taheb Ibrahimi, minister to the Presidency of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, arrived in Nouakchott this afternoon for a visit to our country. The Algerian ministerial counselor was received on his arrival by Mr Abdel Aziz Ould Ahmed, minister of justice and Islamic affairs, temporary minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mr (Najur Bulbuye), personal under secretary of the prime minister and head of government; and His Excellency Mr Mohamed Zargini, Algerian ambassador in our country.

MOROCCO

OFFICIALS RESPOND TO MAURITANIAN ACCUSATIONS

Bouabid Statement

LD172218 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2003 GMT 17 Mar 81

["Full statement" read by Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid to journalists in Marrakech on 17 March--recorded]

[Text] First of all I should like to welcome you and to thank you for coming to hear the government statement which I shall be reading out to you by authority of his majesty and in the name of his majesty's government, in the wake of the accusations which the rulers of Mauritania have fabricated against our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, yesterday we had reports to the effect that an attempted coup took place in the capital of the Republic of Mauritania, Nouakchott. Everybody knows, with much regret, that this was not the first time that fighting for power took place within the ranks of Mauritanian officers since the first coup which overthrew President Mokhtar Ould Daddah. Furthermore, news of previous attempts to overthrow the regime in Mauritania--when those involved were caught red-handed--has never seen the light of day [word indistinct] thos who engineered the attempts were released and relations with the state which incited them returned to normal and even improved for reasons that are known to everyone.

News of the attempted coup would have nearly been ordinary news, had it not been for the attempt that accompanied it by the rulers of Mauritania to involve Morocco in this internal event, levelling at it direct accusations and then severing diplomatic relations with it.

I would like first of all to announce in the name of his majesty's government and to stress that what had been stated in the statements by the Nouakchott rulers is a cheap fabrication directed against our country and has no basis in truth. We reject it part and parcel. We denounce it as we previously denounced other slanders, the untruth of which was apparent to world public opinion, such as those slanders in which the Mauritanian rulers alleged that Moroccan aviation violated the airspace to their country and strafed the town of E-N-Ouadibou. Everyone knows that the policy of Morocco externally and domestically is based on moral and unchanging principles. Morocco does not deviate from these principles, regardless of the circumstances and conditions. These principles are headed by the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others.

As far as Mauritania is particularly concerned, and ever since Morocco recognized this country in 1969 on the occasion of the convening of the Islamic conference in Rabat, bilateral relations have continued to proceed normally. It was possible that a crisis would arise between Morocco and Mauritania when the Nouakchott Government expressed territorial claims on the Sahara. But our country averted this crisis. It preferred to join ranks with Mauritania against the colonialist.

When the judgment of the International Court of Justice at the Hague was pronounced, our country undertook to implement it to the letter, in spite of our inalienable rights and in spite of the problems caused to our compatriots as a result of the annexation of Wadi adh-Dhahab [Rio de Oro] to Mauritania.

When Mauritania was subjected to threats by Algeria and to aggression by its mercenaries, Morocco did not hesitate to respond to the Mauritanian request for the dispatch of military units, whose numbers totaled between 6,000 and 8,000 soldiers, and relations with their brothers the Mauritanian soldiers remained exemplary throughout their stay in this fraternal country. When the regime of the President Moukhtar Ould Daddah was toppled Morocco could have expanded by exploiting the agreement on joint Moroccan-Mauritanian defense, but it refrianed from any intervention, in accordance with the same moral principles. The relations between the two countries remained firm in all domains until the Mauritanian side signed the Algiers agreement with the mercenaries of the so-called Polisario, trying to rob Morocco of established historic rights over Wadi adh-Dhahab province. Since the signing of this agreement, Mauritania began to execute continuous escalation of hostility toward Morocco. It is common knowledge that this continuous escalation passed through several stages, the first of which was the statement opting out of the dispute and adopting neutrality. The situation then developed gradually until we began to notice the participation of high-level Mauritanian officials in scenarios, which used to be staged in Tindouf, while the mercenaries were being welcomed at official ceremonies in Nouakchott.

This was followed by the phase of inventing the so-called Moroccan threat to Mauritania, which has been crowned by the grave accusation which was made against us yesterday and also by severing diplomatic relations. Nevertheless, Morocco intends to publish a book which will accurately show the various aspects of Moroccan-Mauritanian cooperation and will explain the degree of efforts, or rather the big sacrifices, which our country made for its neighbor, out of its belief in the unity of the fate of the two friendly peoples.

If we are to go back to the latest coup attempt, we find that Col Ould Abdel Kader had asked for political asylum in Morocco, in line with what had been done by other opponents in various countries. This right was granted to him within the framework of observed international principles--first of all his undertaking not to embark on any political activity against the government of his country.

Perhaps you are unaware of the fact that the Mauritanian Government had made a request to the Moroccan Government to hand over Col Ould Abdel Kader to it. We declined to do so because he did not violate his undertaking. We challenge the rulers of Nouakchott to produce any leaflet or booklet produced by the person in question during his stay in Morocco. We further challenge them to produce any proof or evidence that those who engineered and (?carried out) the coup came from Moroccan territory.

And between two brackets, not even the late President Boumediene dared to put forward such a request, to hand over opponents of the regime, either when relations between our two countries were good or bad, once again, concerning the Algerian political refugees. It is obvious that the misleading campaign which Morocco's opponents are escalating, and which Mauritania has now joined, has come about as a result of the victories which our country has scored both in the military and diplomatic fields, now that the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces have become master of the situation in the field, to the extent that every operation by the mercenaries has become like a suicidal operation. And here the representatives of Europe in their parliament see the problem in its real context, namely a bilateral Moroccan-Algerian problem.

It is clear that among the objectives of this campaign are to seek the sympathy of world public opinion and portray Morocco as an aggressor, for the purpose of tipping the scale in favor of our foes, after stripping naked their lies. The fate of this attempt will be utter failure, because international public opinion will not be deceived by slanders which fool no one. In the face of the behavior of the Nouakchott rulers and their bad faith there is one thing only which we regret, namely, the adverse consequences of this reckless initiative with regard to the two fraternal Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples, who are linked by ties of kinship, religion, language and common heritage.

In this connection, I cannot but stress that the Mauritanian rulers, and those who manipulate them, alone bear complete responsibility for the development of events in the area and for all the complications that might result of them in the future. Everyone knows that Morocco has shown a great deal of patience, wisdom and self-restraint in the face of all the repeated provocations and incitements, out of its keen desire to maintain good-neighbor relations and safeguard the future of fraternal relations between the two fraternal Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples.

Later Remarks

LD172346 [Editorial Report] Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic at 2018 GMT on 17 March, immediately after carrying the recorded statement by Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, makes the following announcement:

"Gentlemen, this has been the text of the statement which the prime minister and minister of justice, Maati Bouabid, made in the name of his majesty's government in reply to the accusations of the Mauritanian rulers. While making this statement at the headquarters of Marrakech municipality, the prime minister was accompanied by the minister of state in charge of foreign affars and cooperation, M'hamed Boucetta, minister of information Abdelwahid Belkaziz, Finance Minister Abdelkamel Raghaye, the minister delegate at the premier's office, Abdellatif Jawahiri, and his majesty's governor in Marrakech, Mustafa Tapiq."

The announcer then presents recorded remarks that were made by the prime minister after he had read his statement, as follows:

"Morocco is resolved to maintain composure and wisdom and foresight so that it will not fall into the trap of the conspirators against the brotherhood of the Mauritanian and Moroccan peoples and so that those who have good intentions can overcome the attempt to cause disunity and an estrangement between Morocco and Mauritania. If God finds any good in your heart, he will give you somethi ; better."

Official Circles

LD171424 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 17 Mar (MAP)--Moroccan official milieux expressed their indignation following the accusations launched by the Mauritanian premier, who was unable to give the slightest proof of Morocco's commitment in the events that took place in Mauritania Monday afternoon. The Moroccan milieux detected a number of contradictions in the premier's declarations. In fact, they notice that the measures that had been adopted and the different appeals launched to the population make one suppose that the movement goes beyond "the action of a commando."

The same milieux added that it is not the first that Mauritanian officials, encountered with difficulties, create diversion by launching baseless accusations against Morocco, and recalled Morocco's policy of non-interference in other states internal affairs, stating that this policy has always been implemented in the relations with Mauritania, mainly when more than ten thousand Moroccan soldiers were stationed in this country.

Rejecting the irresponsible accusations of the Mauritanian premier, the Moroccan official milieux held the Mauritanian Government fully responsible of any worsening that might occur in Morocco's relations with the Mauritanian brotherly people.

On the other hand, Mr Maati Bouabid, Moroccan premier and minister of justice, is to make this Tuesday a declaration to newsmen on the Mauritanian accusations.

It is to be recalled that the Mauritanian presidential palace was attacked Monday afternoon while the country's Military Committee for National Salvation was holding a meeting.

The Iraqi news agency INA precised in a dispatch from Nouakchott that Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi, second deputy-president of the government of Colonel Youssef Louli and Mohamed Ould Beih Ould Abdel Kader, former member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, were behind the attempt. INA added that the Mauritanian radio had affirmed that the governmental forces were in full control of the situation.

RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA, ALGERIA VIEWED 16 MAR

LD171157 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Mar 81 p 1

[Talhah Jibril report: "Tension and Arms Race in Arab Maghreb; Boucetta: Mauritania Is Provoking Morocco, but We Are Not Intefering in Its Affairs"]

[Excerpts] Rabat--Tension in the Arab Maghreb area has once again mounted following the Nouakchott government's accusation that Morocco is interfering in Mauritania's affairs.

Well-informed Moroccan sources have told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that King Hassan discussed this subject during his recent visit to Paris and assured President Giscard d'Estaing that Morocco has absolutely no intention of interfering in Mauritania's internal affairs.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT contacted Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta regarding the Mauritanian accusations. He made the following statement: These accusations are unfounded. In fact, it is Morocco that has often drawn the attention of the Mauritanian officials to the need to maintain strong and fraternal relations. Mauritania's attitude to the mercenary groups, the official receptions accorded to these people and the public statements by the Mauritanian media as well as the activities of these groups and the recruitment of Mauritanians into the ranks of the so-called Polisario--all this has made Moroccan public opinion wonder whether Mauritania is going to become a base for launching an attack on Morocco. Morocco's attitude has strictly been one of drawing attention, which is logical.

Boucetta added: Morocco has often affirmed that it does not and will not interfere in Mauritania's internal affairs. It proved this when more than 12,000 troops of the Moroccan Armed Forces were on the Mauritanian territory and political disturbances broke out. Morocco avoided interfering then.

On the other hand, there appears to be an increasing arms race between Morocco and Algeria. While Morocco is preparing to receive a U.S. tanks shipment which the U.S. administration recently approved for Morocco, a high-level military delegation arrived in Algeria for talks with Algerian officials concerning the supply of hardware to the Algerian Army, while press reports speak of the arrival of 50 Libyan tanks in the Tindouf area.

Meanwhile, relative calm has prevailed in the Saharan areas since the Moroccan forces consolidated their military position by building a defense line aimed at preventing the Polisario forces from penetrating the populated areas. For some time no fighting has been reported in the area.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR PRIME MINISTER STATEMENT SUPPORTS MAURITANIA

LD171712 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Statement issued by Mohamed Lamine, prime minister of the SDAR, on the 16 March attempted coup in Mauritania--read by the Saharan charge d'affaires in Algiers; recorded]

[Text] This desperate action against Mauritania proves that the invasion of the Western Sahara is simply a precedent to increased destabilization in the region and, eventually, in Africa as a whole. The government of the SDAR has never stopped drawing the attention of international, and in particular African, public opinion to the danger of closing one's eyes to the Moroccan regime's expansionist policy. Once again, the OAU is faced with its historic responsibilities and the obligations imposed on it by its charter to make the [word indistinct] Moroccan expansionism fail.

The Government of the SDAR is conscious of the attempts [word indistinct] of the expansionist regime in Rabat, particularly since the (?resumption in) Mauritania of a ruinous and fratricidal war. The failure of the Moroccan invaders has forced it to continue to fight an unjust war and to lead it into various acts of [word indistinct] against the Saharan and Mauritanian people.

Faced with this situation, the Government of the SDAR, while condemning the flagrant aggression against the fraternal Mauritanian people, reaffirmed the constant and indestructible solidarity of the Saharan people with their brothers, the Mauritanian people.

ETHIOPIA

STIRN VIEWS EFFORTS TO SOLVE HORN BORDER ISSUES

LD141406 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Valery Giscard d'Estaing has addressed a message to the Ethiopian head of state. President Haile Mariam. The French secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Olivier Stirn, who is currently on an official visit in Addis Ababa, was entrusted with conveying this message. Olivier Stirn is the first Western minister to be received in Ethiopia since 1974. Ralph Pinto asked Olivier Stirn if the idea of a conference on the Indian Ocean is registering any progress and what France's role will be:

[Begin recording] [Stirn] The idea launched by the president of the republic in 1978 and which at the start seemed difficult to achieve has made some progress. It seems today that in order to manage to solve pending border issues between the countries of the Horn of Africa, in order to eradicate the still existing tensions--which are dangerous--the idea of a conference gathering either the five countries of the Horn of Africa proper, that is Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Djibouti, or these five plus the three countries on the Red Sea, that is the two Yemens and Saudi Arabia, this idea has made some progress. It is certain that we have moreover presented the idea to all the countries of the region. We spoke of it to the Russians and to the Americans, and it is certain that one day those who are interested will have to sit around a table and between themselves find a solution. Is one on the verge of a conference, is more time needed for it to take place, all this is difficult to say. What is certain is that no one is rejecting it. [end recording]

ERITREAN OFFICIAL ON UNITY OF LIBERATION GROUPS

JN151433 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Mar (QNA)--Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces, has said that, even if the merger of the three Eritrean liberation groups is difficult due to differences of culture and principles, he is ready to join a unified front similar to the PLO which would include all three groups.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency, the Eritrean official said that he had sent a cable to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on this subject on the occasion of the special national unity meetings held by the three Eritrean groups. The 3-day meetings, which started in Tunis today under the supervision of the Arab League secretary general, are being attended by the leaders of the Eritrean groups and representatives of Somalia, Morocco and Tunisia. These meetings come in implementation of the Amman summit resolutions.

In his cable, the Eritrean official, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi, called upon all participants in these meetings to resort to reason and wisdom when discussing the Eritrean issue in order to face the Ethiopian campaigns, which aim at liquidating the Eritrean cause and the people's struggle. He also stressed the importance of reaching a firm and suitable formula to achieve national unity among the Eritrean groups.

The three Eritrean groups are: The Popular Liberation Forces, the Revolution Council and the Popular Front.

SOMALIA

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE WISHING WSLF SUCCESS

LD171440 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 17 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Egyptian president, Mr Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, has sent a message of thanks to the secretary of the WSLF, Muhammad Diriye Urdoh, thanking him for his earlier message of condolence over the sudden death of the Egyptian minister of defense.

President as-Sadat said: I wish you success in your just struggle for freedom.

TANZANIA

JAPAN FIRST STOP ON PRESIDENT'S ASIAN TOUR

For reportage on the week-long visit of President Julius Nyerere to Japan, see the Japan section of the 17 March and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

OAU COMMITTEE MEETS IN ARUSHA, URGES SANCTIONS

LD171444 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 0400 GMT 17 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Arusha--The chairman of the OAU Standing Committee on Sanctions, Prof Lameck Goma, has called on the international community to impose sanctions, especially an oil embargo, against racist South Africa. Ndugu Goma, who is also Zambia's foreign minister, sounded the call when opening a 6-day meeting of the committee in Arusha last night. He observed that since arms may not quite succeed as quickly as Africa would like, alternative course changes should be sought.

Ndugu Goma pointed out that because of Pretoria's arrogant refusal to free Namibia, the committee's task had become even more urgent now. He said the use of an oil embargo must therefore, apart from forcing a change in South Africa itself, speed up the establishment in Namibia of a free and lawful regime, acceptable to all the people of the country.

PRIME MINISTER ORDERS PARASTATAL ACCOUNTS PROBE

LD171916 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 17 Mar EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--The prime minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, has directed the National Assembly Parastatal Accounts Committee to scrutinize accounts of all parastatal firms in which the government has a holding share of 50 percent and above.

Ndugu Msuya, who was addressing members of the committee who called on him at Dar es Salaam today, said interim administrative arrangements should be worked out to enable the committee to probe accounts of all parastatals including those registered under the company ordinance until the time when legislative arrangements would be enacted to the ordinance.

The prime minister gave the directive following remarks by the committee members that only 70 out of a total of 355 [word indistinct] firms were subject to scrutiny by the committee due to differences in the laws under which they were established. He said the work of the committee was important in order to ensure efficient running and responsible management of all parastatals. He advised members of the committee to visit the companies and study their operations in addition to their paper work.

The talks today were also attended by the attorney general, Ndugu Warioba; the director general of the Tanzania Audit Corporation, Ndugu (Singule); the clerk of the National Assembly, Ndugu Kazimoto, and officials from the treasury and the speakers office.

UGANDA

PRESIDENT OBOTE ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT 17 MAR

LD181232 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Mar 81 EA

[Text] President Obote has disclosed that arrangements have been completed and some are due to be completed soon for the (?disbursement of) about 3 billion shillings for priority areas in the production and social service sectors and consumer goods.

In the communication from the chair at the official opening of Parliament, the president said these funds had come from friendly countries, institutions and UN agencies. Negotiations are continuing for more funds from various sources. Dr Obote also disclosed that agreements had been reached with the Kenyan Government to provide Uganda with a loan of 300 million shillings for clearing Uganda's imports from the port of Mombasa.

Dr Obote said his government wants to create a new Uganda in which every individual will be able to enjoy a reasonable standard of living and security in his home and (?health) aspects and social services. All the energies of the nation with the government shall be mobilized toward that end.

He stressed that Ugandans [words indistinct] to guide them in the systematic mobilization and utilization of resources. The government's guiding principles shall be to raise the level of production by turning much of (?time) available (?money) to the productive sector and to ensure efficiency in the productive sector and the social services.

It will also aim at eliminting wasteful expenditure in government institutions, departments, [word indistinct] and parastatal organizations. [Words indistinct] received in the form of grants and loans will also be applied. The government will also promote friendship and cooperation between Uganda and the donor countries and organizations. It will also create opportunities and incentives for Ugandans and foreign investors.

The president said his government is determined to see that there is an economic recovery and that social services are restored and developed for the benefit of all the people. But he declared that the success of the country's economic recovery and development will depend very heavily on the existence of correct policies and a strong implementing machinery, coupled with hard work by all able-bodied persons.

On the part of the government, he said, efforts will be made to strengthen the National Planning Commission, to restructure the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and create planning (?units) in ministries and in the districts.

Commenting on the numerous state enterprises and companies created by the Amin regime, the Ugandan leader disclosed that the government is examining the best way of selling them all or returning them to their original owners. The president added that the government had decided to give the agricultural sector the highest priority in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of our economy, laying emphasis on the provision of food crops which offer potential of increasing food for the population.

To reduce (?bad) harvest food losses, the government will provide central storage facilities equipped with modern techniques to prevent the destruction of food. In addition, a better food market and distribution system as well as pricing structure will be established.

The government is determined that Ugandans should be encouraged to produce the traditional export crops of coffee, cotton, tea and tobacco. In addition, it shall be government policy to diversify the export crop [word indistinct].

An (?imaginative) program is being formulated to give encouragement and assistance to farmers. Part of the consumer goods coming to the country shall be channeled to progressive and large-scale farmers, to enable them to pay their workers in cash and in kind. Agricultural implements such as hoes, ox-driven ploughs, [words indistinct] and insecticide have been ordered and will be made available to farmers under subsidy schemes. Tractors shall be made available to large-scale and progressive farmers, who will be encouraged to hire them out to the small-holders.

Every farmer [and] individually-owned company shall be free to undertake any large-scale agricultural project and government aid, whether in terms of finance, machinery, transportation of [word indistinct] or professional advice, shall be extended to the (?firm).

The government shall encourage investment in agriculture through schemes of tax relief. Farm schools shall be reopened and provided with tools, machinery and facilities and a scheme of [words indistinct] shall be instituted to cater for [words indistinct] of the schools. Technical and professional advisory and research assistance shall be made available to the farmers through government funds, research stations and agricultural extension services.

While encouraging the cooperative movement, which will be expanded, the government intends to pay the highest attention to the strengthening of the management of cooperative unions and societies. Producers of crops should be paid cash on delivery. Prices of crops shall be kept under constant review. The marketing board has to be streamlined and strengthened by giving it sufficient capital funds and qualified personnel.

Speaking about the large-scale industries, Dr Obote said the government's priority efforts will be directed toward the control of the livestock and poultry (?producers).

Plans have been negotiated for the strengthening and rehabilitation of the ranches, poultry and dairy farms and for the purchase of [words indistinct].

In the industrial sector, the immediate government objective is to satisfy local needs and then (?cater) for potential export possibilities. With regard to the participation of the private sector in the economy of Uganda, the government will [words indistinct] law and amend the [words indistinct] of 1964 with a view to providing a more (?reasonable) and greater protection for foreign [words indistinct] investors.

In the field of commerce, the president said emphasis will be laid on importing [word indistinct] and services that are urgently required to rehabilitate local industries and producing the finished essential commodities that are required for the daily use of Ugandans.

He announced that the government has placed orders for considerable quantities of consumer goods and it is hoped that their arrival will (?alleviate) the situation.

The president said all people who left the country after being deprived of their property are free to come and regain their ownership. The government is considering to give a date after which failure to return and repossess their property will render such property liable for sale. In the same way, those who do not wish to come and repossess their property, such property will be [words indistinct] (?in bond).

Turning to tourism, Dr Obote said the government is determined to reestablish this once flourishing industry.

As regards land, the right of any citizen to own a piece of land [words indistinct] be restored. Land required by the government or a parastatal body for national projects, unless it is public land, shall only be acquired after negotiations with the owner or owners and shall be [word indistinct] paid for in full.

On water, the president said plans for [words indistinct] are being negotiated for the rehabilitation of water supplies, both in the rural and urban centers. The Ugandan Government shall regard the availability of sufficient quantities of clean water as one of [word indistinct] human rights.

On minerals, the president said the government policy was to rehabilitate Kilembe mines. However, for the near future the government will concentrate on finding sources of finance for a cobalt extraction plant. Negotiations will be initiated this month [words indistinct].

The production of cement will be regarded as a matter of priority. Two overseas firms have been commissioned to rehabilitate the Hima and Tororo cement industries. The government also intends to seek finance for the exploitation of other mineral deposits.

Turning to the public service, the president said it was the policy of the government to build a well-trained, responsible, effective and motivated public service, capable of implementing government policies with dedication. He added that the government also intends to reconstitute and restructure local administration in a manner that will strengthen their intended role in society.

The government intends to set up a rural advisory service and research unit which will provide advice and other services to rural communities to augment their efforts to build new houses and to [word indistinct] services (?for existing ones).

In the urban areas, the government will soon establish a reconstruction and development corporation with responsibility to [words indistinct] more effective (?plans) and carry out repairs to the existing building structures. In addition, a systematic urban development program will be launched to construct new houses. The bill introducing this corporation will soon be presented to Parliament.

In order to rebuild the morale and confidence of our youth and to ensure their involvement in the national efforts to rejuvenate and develop our economy, the government will mobilize the youth and will reintroduce youth movements, such as the National Union of Youths Organizations, NUYO, the National Union of Students of Uganda, NUSU, and the Young Farmers Association, YFA.

On labor, the government's basic policy is geared toward the right of the individual to work and (?share in their direction). The government will also give every possible support to trade unions for the betterment of the workers.

Commenting on the role of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the president said the present technical and professional inadequacies of the ministry are being attended to by external financial and technical assistance.

Discussing security, Dr Obote said it was the government's determination to rectify the present situation. He (?declared) that the government has embarked on a program on expanding, training and equipping the police force. Internal security shall be the responsibility of the police.

The Uganda National Liberation Army's [UNLA] role shall be the role in (?defense) of the country's territorial integrity. The government does not intend to (?expand) the UNLA but the government will ensure that the existing army should be [word indistinct] into an efficient, effective and well-equipped and disciplined force (?in addition) to its traditional role (?of being) involved in direct (?production). [Words indistinct] amended armed forces act 1964 will be presented to Parliament in order to [words indistinct] changes which had taken place since the act came into being.

Commenting on the recent report in the UGANDA TIMES about alleged killings of people in East Moyo District, the president emphasized that it is not true that of over 50,000 people in East Moyo only 8,000 can be accounted for. I confirm to the House, he declared, that it is not true that in East Moyo there are no people, no animals and [words indistinct] (?land).

He said the prime minister, the commander of the Uganda army and two cabinet ministers had been to the area and their account of what they saw and heard from the thousands of people whom they addressed is the opposite of the reporter's story [words indistinct] as the reporter himself admits, to be a [words indistinct].

Discussing the results of the general elections, the president said it is the belief of the government that any Ugandan who does not believe and does not accept the [word indistinct] of the electorate must be regarded as an enemy of the democratic process. He said that it is the position of the government [words indistinct] their electoral complaints in the constituency or constituencies, the body to [word indistinct] all such complaints is the Uganda High Court.

On foreign policy, the president said the government will pursue a program of an African (?nation) in regard to all African issues. Uganda will continue to express solidarity with liberation movements such as SWAPO, the PLO, the Polisario and the gallant and long-suffering people of South Africa.

In the field of (?the) international (?scene), Dr Obote said his government will be guided by four principles: First, the government wants to have the closest cooperation with Uganda's neighbors. Secondly, the government will work for the unity of purpose of the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, the Commonwealth and other international organizations. Thirdly, Uganda will work for the preservation of peace among nations in the framework of the United Nations, and fourthly, Uganda will work for the promotion of understanding generally.

Later the president, the vice president, Mr Paulo Muwanga, the prime minister, Mr Otema Alimadi, the leader of the opposition, Mr Paul Ssemogerere, MP's, diplomats, and invited guests attended a reception at Parliament [word indistinct] gardens and they were entertained by the Uganda police band.

VICE PRESIDENT SUES WEEKLY FOR DEFAMATION

WA181430 UGANDA TIMES in English 21 Feb 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Kampala, 21 Feb--The vice president and minister of defence, Mr Paulo Muwanga, is suing "MULENGERA", THE ECONOMY'S sister Luganda weekly, for defamation.

The plaint filed in the Uganda High Court, Kampala, alleges that on February 11, 1980, "MULENGERA" newspaper printed and published under the headline "TIBIMUGENDEDDE BULUNGI", words which were defamatory to the character and reputation of Mr Muwanga.

The plaint further alleges that the story runs as follows: "Those who know the history of Mr Paulo Muwanga know that in general his political life has been full of failure. They say he started his first employment in the post office where he was eventually dismissed. During the infamous Obote rule which resulted in his being dismissed in Parliament and sent as an ambassador, it is amazing that they are working together..."

"During Amin's murderous rule, again Paulo Muwanga then ambassador of Uganda in France, office equipment got lost and the circumstances could not be explained. The dismissal of Paulo Muwanga could not be helped.

"The situation in Uganda had reached a great concern to everybody for the way and manner Mr Muwanga had been confusing the running of government."

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC ISSUES

AB171812 Paris AFP in French 1456 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Libreville, 17 Mar 81 (AFP)--CAR President David Dacko on Tuesday stressed the need to maintain bilateral cooperation with France. He made the statement in an interview to the Libreville-based radio station Africa Number One.

Talking about the special ties between the two countries, the CAR head of state said he did not see any reason why they should be ashamed for maintaining such ties. He also said he wanted to open his country to other countries of Western Europe, and that the country would not close its door to some moderate socialist countries.

With regard to the changes that have taken place in his country, he stressed that the suffering endured by the people under Bokassa has prompted him to establish a multiparty system through the ordinance of 26 October 1979. However, he observed, that given the drawbacks and the advantages of such a system it was up to Central Africans to cut down the number of political parties corresponding with the various tribes or regions.

President Dacko however expressed the view that the multiparty system is in the interest of his country because it is a school of democracy.

Talking about the presidential election, he stated that if his party wins the election he will be able to impose his views.

With regard to the next Central African assembly, he expressed the hope that it will include members of the opposition parties in order to watch over the majority group.

In reply to a question on the future of his country's economy, President Dacko pointed out that emphasis will be laid on the construction of roads in order to ensure the collection and transportation of agricultural products. At the same time, the sectors of forestry and the large and small-scale exploitation of precious stones will be promoted and developed, not to overlook the rehabilitation of industries closed down due to mismanagement or to financial difficulties.

OPPONENTS DENOUNCE REPORT OF DACKO VICTORY

AB180039 Paris AFP in French 0733 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 18 Mar (AFP)--Four CAR political leaders who are candidates for the presidency of the republic on Tuesday evening issued a communique denouncing Radio France International's false report of the victory of David Dacko, who is supported by Giscard d'Estaing.

In a communique delivered to the press in Bangui, Mr Ange Patasse (Oubangui Patriotic Movement), Henri Maidou (Republican Progress Party), Francois Pehoua (Independent) and Abel Goumba (Oubangui Patriotic Front) said this was a maneuver aimed at justifying Giscard d'Estaing's forthcoming interventions and assassinations in the CAR. After affirming that a military intervention is being planned in favor of Capt Berrand Soualakpe, the son of Barthelemy Boganda, the founder of the republic, the four candidates held the French Government and President Giscard d'Estaing entirely responsible for any future civil war in the republic.

In a joint communique issued on 10 March, these four personalities had already hinted at the possibility of a coup d'etat attempt instigated by France and of which General Boziz is to be the instrument or the beneficiary. In their communique published on Tuesday, the four opponents of Mr Dacko affirmed that a coup d'etat was being planned, this time in favor of Captain Soualakpe.

General Boziz, a former minister of President Dacko, is said to be presently undergoing training at the Paris War College. According to the communique, Captain Soualakpe--who has his residence in France according to rumors in Bangui--recently returned to Bangui. Captain Soualakpe, whose mother is French, is the son of Barthelemy Goganda, the founder of the Movement for Social Progress in Black Africa and first head of the Oubangui-Chari government formed in 1957; he died on 13 August 1960 only a few days before independence. President Dacko is one of his nephews and a cousin of former head of state Jean-Badel Bokassa.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU PRESIDES OVER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

AB162147 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Report on the Executive Council meeting held in Kinshasa on 13 March; read by State Commissioner for Information Elebe Ma Ekonzo--recorded]

[Summary] "As everybody knows, the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, was to go to Dar es Salaam today along with his other Central and Eastern African colleagues to discuss problems of security and good-neighbor relations. He did not go and has asked the first state commissioner to represent him. Why did the founding chairman fail to make the trip to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania? This was because after his discussions last Wednesday with the International Monetary Fund's representatives--who, moreover, are still in our country--the head of state decided to remain at home in order to personally preside over this Friday's Executive Council meeting.

"Today's meeting was a very important one, especially because it enabled the head of state to issue a warning concerning the national budget approved by the Legislative Council and promulgated by the founding chairman and whose execution is liable to be compromised if austerity is not immediately imposed in the management of public affairs at all levels."

The founding chairman particularly stressed that despite certain constraints observed in the operation of certain services, the public finances should not suffer from any imbalance due to unbudgeted expenditures. He cited, for example, the case of 12,263 teachers who were not provided for by the Executive Council but who had been improperly hired by the authorities of some primary and secondary schools.

"The head of state was very categorical and did not mince words. The state acting like providence is now dead and will be replaced by the state in basic terms. The head of state added: The state, through the Executive Council, is not in the service of the educational institutions. It cannot be subjected to anybody's law."

The head of state decided that the number of 236,062 teachers decided upon on 30 June 1980 will remain the only number the Executive Council will take into consideration. "The 12,263 other teachers improperly hired by the various educational institutions without the approval of the authorities, that is the Executive Council, cannot under any circumstances be paid by the public treasury. They are the responsibility of those who hired them and it is these people who should give them an account.

"As we can see, the president's decision is very clear. It falls within the framework of the policy of the Nsele manifesto, which stipulates that the state cannot be subjected to any pressure whatsoever."

Concerning the reduction of expenditures, the Executive Council decided to reduce the supplementary and regional budgets by a quarter while that of the Zairian missions abroad will be reduced by half. Similarly, the Executive Council has decided to reduce the number of our diplomats abroad to the barest minimum.

GHANA

IVORIAN PRESIDENT REFUSES TO RECEIVE MINISTER

AB172032 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The minister of the interior, Dr Ekow-Daniels, has disclosed that President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast refused to receive him when he was in Abidjan to deliver a message from President Limann in connection with the death of 46 Ghanaians in a police cell there. Instead the Ivorian minister of state, Mr Denise, was made to meet him. Dr Ekow-Daniels was addressing a news conference in Accra on his mission to the Ivory Coast in connection with the incident.

He said following a raid by the Ivorian police on suspected criminals, some 200 Ghanaians, mostly fishermen, were arrested. Fifty-six of them were crowded into a cell meant for 6 persons. Forty-six died through lack of water and air, and when the Ghana Embassy contacted the commandant of the police barracks to find out about the incident he denied knowledge and even refused to help the 10 survivors. Dr Ekow-Daniels disclosed further that without informing the Ghana Embassy, the Ivory Coast authorities went ahead and buried the dead Ghanaians. Dr Ekow-Daniels said at his meeting with the Ivorian autorities, the minister of state expressed shock and regret at what had happened. He said he was told that President Houphouet-Boigny had ordered the arrest of the officer in charge of the barracks pending investigations into the whole incident. He said the Ghana delegation stressed the necessity of having a Ghanaian representative on such an inquiry. The minister emphasized that the government is taking steps to ensure that the tragic affair is resolved. He said the government cannot look on unconcerned when Ghanaians are ill-treated in neighboring countries. He expressed the government's condolences to the bereaved families most of whom hailed from Praampram, Krong, Ningo, Komenda and Winneba.

ARTICLE VIEWS EXODUS OF NATIONALS; HITS GOVERNMENT

AB172224 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] THE PIONEER also carries an article by a writer under the heading, "A Nation of Wanderers and Vagabonds." It says the inability of Ghana's economy to offer jobs to the people, the lack of effective economic planning and of consumer goods are the causes of the exodus. The writer is of the view that the country lacks leadership. The government, it says, cannot fight even in the face of endless institutionalized discrimination and oppression against Ghanaians. All that the government is capable of doing is sending emmissaries or mild notes of protest.

GUINEA-BISSAU

MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON FRICTION WITH CAPE VERDE

LD171323 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 8 Mar 81 p 7

[Manuel R. Dias Interview with Guinea-Bissau Foreign Minister Vitor Saude Maria: "African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) Founders Are 'Parvenus'"--date and place not specified]

[Text] "Luis Cabral could have died of an illness. His ouster is no reason to question the unity of the party and of Guinea." This was said by Vitor Saude Maria, minister of foreign affairs (as he was in the former government) and deputy chairman of the revolutionary government. In an interview which he granted to us, Saude Maria accused Cape Verde of having formed the PAICV from "parvenu militants" but deferred until the Maputo summit (whose date has yet to be decided) an analysis of this and other matters connected with cooperation with the Portuguese speaking African countries.

The Guinea foreign minister said first that his country's foreign policy stance will continue to be the same, that the nonalignment policy has been confirmed and that backing for the liberation movements is being maintained.

The fact that Luis Cabral reserved the handling of foreign affairs for himself was described as "a domestic matter" stemming from the "lack of confidence" of the former president, who "did not need to do this if he had respected Amilcar Cabral, who advocated collegial decision-making."

With regard to the way in which Cape Verde condemned the "change" (this is what the minister called the 14 November coup), Saude Maria called it "an interference," since "Cape Verde changed as many ministers as it saw fit some time ago, and we did not interfere.

"We believe," he added, "that in view of the political and economic situation at the time, the country could not continue as it was. Guinea suffered a great deal as a result of colonization and the liberation struggle. We struggled to create a situation of prosperity and justice. We cannot accept a regime that challenges all this sacrifice." The minister said that "all democratic means" were used to alter the situation, but that since it proved impossible that way, "the only remaining solution was a change."

Though he considers that "Cape Verde was very remote" and that a rapprochement "will be difficult" ("we have shown all the patience higherto," he commented), Vitor Saude Maria hopes that it will still be "possible to hold a dialogue." "This is what we are struggling for. We do not want to betray either Amilcar Cabral or the people of Cape Verde."

The minister believes that "both in Africa and throughout the world there was favorable reaction to what happened in Guinea." The contacts established contributed to this. Saude Maria has visited Guinea-Conakry, Senegal and The Gambia and intends to visit the Portuguese-speaking countries soon--and Europe, where several diplomatic demarches have already been made.

The Guinea foreign minister described the theory that the coup was an overture to the West and "Speculation" and said with regard to the improvement in relations with Conarky that this is normal with the country which "most supported the liberation struggle," adding, however, that "a country's sovereignty cannot be bartered."

During my interview with the minister we also discussed two episodes connected with charges made by Guinea against Cape Verde: the 5,000 kg of flour which remained in Sao Vicente, where it was taken for milling; and the goods (furniture) from Portugal unloaded in Cape Verde.

One final point: Relations with Portugal are good and Guinea will do its utmost to develop them further.

IVORY COAST

ECOWAS ENVOYS EXPRESS SUPPORT OVER 'INCIDENTS'

AB171405 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The head of state this morning received at his private residence in Cocody the ambassadors of the member countries of ECOWAS accredited to our country. The discussions, which were also attended by the foreign minister, lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. The dean of the ECOWAS ambassadors, Upper Voltan Ambassador Jean-Baptiste Kafando, explains to our reporter Benjamin (Oulayi) the purpose of this visit to the head of state:

[Begin recording] We are nine ambassadors from ECOWAS member countries who decided to pay a group visit to the head of state in order to express to him our support, solidarity and sympathy following the incidents which occurred recently. Our step which is a friendly one because we represent friendly countries, is also a brotherly one because we consider ourself as citizens of this country [words indistinct].

[Question] Apart from this, did you discuss problems of cooperation?

[Answer] We discussed cooperation and it is a cooperation which is (? continuing to develop) [words indistinct]. We are anxious that the existing friendship and good relations should not be vain words but that they should be translated into reality. We gave the assurance that as ambassadors, we will do everything so that peace may reign in this country; we will do everything to combat in our own way the plague of criminality.

Some people pretend that we have remained idle. I think they do not know and understand us well enough. It is true that our action should know and understand us well enough. It is true that our action should not be published on roof tops like the gospel but I believe that this country's authorities are well aware of our relations with themselves, with the president of the republic and with the foreign minister. This is enough for us and it comforts us. [end recording]

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH FRANCE

AB171300 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Cooperation between France and the Ivory Coast has been strengthened with the signing of six agreements between the two countries. Under the agreements, more than 650 million CFA francs will be used in developing agriculture, animal production, telecommunications, education and setting up small and medium-size enterprises.

MALI

COURT SENTENCES DEFENDENTS IN SUBVERSION TRIAL

AB172051 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] In the name of justice in Mali we must do justice in a sane manner, said Mr [name indistinct] in his counsel's speech. The special court for state security has unravelled the affair. It was praised by Mr Thiemoko Diakite Diarra for its courage. It was not a plot and I repeat: It was not a plot. This was the verdict of the special court for state security. Here are the details of the verdict:

Salif Mangara, principal defendant, 3 years imprisonment; Aliou Mangara and Fatidi Mangara, two teachers, have been acquitted; Foly Cissoko and Koulu Diarra, two mounted policemen, 2-year suspended prison sentences; soly Coulibally and Hamidou Doumbia, alias Samuel, two soldiers from Gao, 2-year suspended prison sentences. All the accused persons are presently with their families except Salif Mangara, the principal defendant.

After the verdict was passed Salif shook hands with his fellow-accused persons who had found themselves in this hellish situation because of his erroneus words. This scene was all the more heartrending because Hamidou, alias Samuel, broke into tears.

NIGER

FRANCE'S GALLEY VISITS, MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

LD171501 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 13 Mar 81 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Kountche Asks Galley To Review Aid"]

[Text] Niamey--French Cooperation and Defense Minister Robert Galley left Niamey for Paris 11 March at the end of a 4-day official visit to Niger. Before that he had a second lengthy conversation with President Seyni Kountche devoted entirely to Niger's economic situation.

The French minister told newsmen after the meeting that Colonel Kountche believes that the French and international cooperation effort should be revised to pay more attention to the real situation in Niger, whose equipment effort is in danger of being slowed up as a result of the considerable fall in the price of uranium on the international market. In 1980 prices fell from 25,774 to 16,146 African Financial Community (CFA) francs in revenue. Nevertheless Niamey has recently reached a compromise agreement with its chief partners, establishing the price for Niger's uranium at 20,000 [CFA] francs a kg.

President Kountche also asked Mr Galley, the latter said, to draw the French authorities' attention to the country's difficult food situation, which increases its need for foreign aid in this field proportionate to its growing population.

On Tuesday the French minister visited the Karama domestic telecommunications center nearing completion about 30 km from Niamey. This French-financed project, which cost 24 billion CFA francs, is designed to satisfy the telecommunication requirements of the whole of Niger.

NIGERIA

LAGOS WELCOMES REAGAN'S LETTER TO SHAGARI

LD171528 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Relations between Nigeria and the United States have been fluctuating from time to time. This is dictated by the political leanings of the incumbent American president. As a rule democratic presidents have tended to show greater interest in African affairs. On the other hand, Republican presidents have frequently displayed [word indistinct] attitudes about Africa.

It will be recalled about 8 years ago when a Nigerian head of state went to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Mr Richard Nixon found some excuses and did not receive him in audience. The situation did not improve at the time of Mr Gerald Ford who assumed office in 1974. In 1976 he tried his utmost to intimidate Nigeria and other African nations into supporting the American stand on the Angolan situation. (?He) was however rebuffed by the Nigerian Government. When Mr Jimmy Carter assumed office as president the situation improved remarkably. It was during his tenure of office that the first official visit of a United States president to Nigeria took place in April, 1978. He had earlier, in October 1977, accorded his Nigerian counterpart a warm reception in Washington. In 1980 President Shehu Shagari visited the United States and the American vice president, Mr Walter Mondale, was in Nigeria to further cement areas of cooperation between the two countries.

It was during Carter's period that Nigeria and America formed a joint agricultural consultative committee which gave American and Nigerian businessmen opportunities to explore areas of potential American investment in agriculture in Nigeria. After the establishment of the committee there have been follow-up discussions both in Lagos and Washington. The American [word indistinct] for economic talks between delegates of both nations was a continuation of the dialogue that commenced in 1977. The dialogue had centered around ways of opening up the door to improve trade and investment between the two countries.

Nigeria has been America's biggest trading partner in Africa, being her second largest supplier of oil. On the other hand, Nigeria imports American [word indistinct] and machinery. On our own side it seems that American private businessmen are still hesitant to invest in Nigeria. With the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan most African countries, (?drawing) from experience, were not expecting much dynamism in America's policy in Africa. Those who know President Reagan's political preferences are even saying that the new American administration is unlikely to do much about a buoyant political situation in Namibia and South Africa. In fact they believe that the Reagan administration is unlikely to mount any pressure on the racist regime in South Africa. This is why his presidency was welcomed with apprehension in Nigeria and other African countries. Nevertheless, the American leader has not been written off completely. His recent letter to his Nigerian counterpart will be an indication that [word indistinct] interested in building on the foundation laid by his predecessor.

The cordial relations existing between Nigeria and the United States could be maintained if, at the president's okay, officials of both nations meet soon to discuss matters touching on bilateral and African issues. And on the political stalemate in Namibia the American leader has said in his letter he was willing to work closely with Nigeria to resolve the issue. This promise has been made at a time when nationalists are being morally and materially supported by African nations in their struggle to end South Africa's President Shehu Shagari could well signify the extension of the hand of fellowship to Africa. Such a gesture will receive favorable response if the promise it contains is followed up with putting into practice America's proclaimed belief in freedom and justice.

SHAGARI ASKS UK TO CUT SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMIC TIES

AB180845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] President Shehu Shagari has called on Britain and her allies to contribute meaningfully toward the emancipation of blacks in South Africa through the imposition of sanctions against the apartheid government. He said that in view of the continued intransigence of the racists, sanctions against the enclave must be regarded as one of the ultimate weapons that should be employed to achieve good results.

President Shehu Shagari was speaking last night at a banquet arranged in his honor by Queen Elizabeth II. On Namibia, President Shehu Shagari used Britain to do everything possible to put an end to bloodshed and destruction in the territory. He also paid tribute to the queen for the able manner she had discharged her functions as the head of the commonwealth. On trade, the president called for an adjustment on the economic policy of Britain and her friends, pointing out that such a change would give greater credibility to the image of those countries which protect the Western ideas and ideals. He also called for an improvement on the cooperation between Nigeria and Britain.

London Report

For a London report on President Shagari's state visit to Britain, including his appeal to the queen for Britain to cut its economic ties with South Africa, see the United Kingdom section of the 18 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG WELCOMES U.S. POLICY IN REGION

LD171902 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Station commentary: "On the Southern African Situation"]

[Text] Mozambique and Angola provide classic conditions for testing Washington's new policy of halting what it describes as the Soviet Union's creeping geopolitical offensive. The collapse of the Portuguese empire 7 years ago left a political vacuum in the two countries and the communist proxies moved in, Frelimo in Mozambique and the MPLA backed by the Cubans in Angola. The United States not only stood by but abetted the takeover. It allowed the Soviet Union a free hand and the effect on states elsewhere in Africa and the Third World was profound. Though formerly oriented towards the West many deemed it expedient in the changed circumstances to keep their option towards Moscow open and the Soviet Union's geopolitical offensive proceeded.

But now Washington's approach has been transformed. From here on it will give its support to the opponents of communist expansionism and in both Mozambique and Angola there are active resistance movements and, no less important, large numbers of ordinary people who are disillusioned with Marxism and the foreign domination it has brought. Again, both Mozambique and Angola are in desperate need of the kind of economic aid which the United States but not the Soviet Union can provide. However, Washington has made it known that it will use aid in future as a tool of foreign policy and that it will be granted on a selective basis to Third World governments which are moderate and prepared to work with the West.

Third World countries in southern Africa and elsewhere can no longer have it both ways. They are confronted with a clearcut choice: domination by the Soviet Union or cooperation with the United States. That (?lends background) to yesterday's AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE dispatch on Mozambique. It reported that guerrilla operations in the country were at a level which required military protection for traffic on the road between Maputo and Beira and also that there was divided reaction within the Frelimo Party and government to the recent strengthening of bonds with Moscow. This, the critics argue, could jeopardize American aid as in fact it has already done.

As for Angola, there is responsible speculation in Washington that the ban on assistance to the UNITA guerrillas is to be lifted and in that country, too, people are restive at foreign control in the form of some 20,000 Cubans.

Mozambique and Angola look like being the testing grounds for Washington's new foreign policy and for future alignments in the Third World.

DEFENSE FORCES ATTACK SWAPO BASE IN ANGOLA

LD181126 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The South African Defense Force has announced in Pretoria that it has attacked another SWAPO terrorist base in Angola. The statement says that the attack was launched after repeated warnings to Angola by the South African Government that all terrorist bases would be located and attacked even if they were in neighboring countries. The target was in the vicinity of Lubango in Angola and the attack was launched in the wake of deeds of terror and the murder of civilians in South-West Africa. All the elements of the South African Defense Force involved in the operation returned safely.

Recently South African forces struck at base of the African National Congress in and around Maputo in Mozambique.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA TO GET TELEVISION IN JUNE

LD161152 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] The first television programs in South-West Africa can be expected by 1 June this year. A joint statement to this effect has been issued in Windhoek by the South African Broadcasting Corporation and the South-West African Broadcasting Corporation. The chairman of the board of SWABO, Mr (Piet) Venter, said the television service for the territory would be instituted in terms of a decision by the ministers' council of South-West Africa.

Windhoek and Oshakati in Ovambo would be the first target areas of the new service. A license would be granted to the SABC television service to broadcast programs in South-West Africa until such times as the independence of the territory might change the situation.

ZIMBABWE

OAU CHAIRMAN STEVENS ARRIVES IN SALISBURY 17 MAR

LD180954 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 81 CA

[Excerpts] The president of Sierra Leone and current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Dr Siaka Stevens, arrived in Salisbury this afternoon to begin a 2-day official visit. On his arrival at the airport Dr Stevens was met by the president, Comrade Banana, the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, cabinet ministers and senior government officials, as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

President Stevens was accorded a full red carpet treatment with a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor drawn from the air force regiment of Zimbabwe. Dr Stevens, who has also visited Mozambique, will visit the Zambian capital, Lusaka, after leaving Zimbabwe.

MUGABE SPEAKS ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ARMY

LD170952 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Mar 81 CA

[Address to the nation on 16 March by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe--live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. As we approach the first anniversary of our hard-won independence, I would like to say a few words about one of our country's most important developments--the formation of the Zimbabwe national army. It is true that when we came to power 11 months ago, one of our most pressing challenges lay in the great number of men and women who had taken a combative part in the struggle for freedom and who looked forward to a useful role in the life of their new country. The problems encountered in meeting the aspirations of our supporters who took up arms have been enormous. With perseverance and good will many of the worst situations have been resolved.

We have moved all the people from the regional assembly points and I am glad to say the regional assembly points are now closed. We have come a long way towards the formation of a true people's army, whose role it is to protect our country and help our people in many ways. The members of the joint high command have been unstinting in their efforts to bring together, in a strong and united team, the soldiers of our nation. Our training programs have progressed steadily and I am happy to say that, at the present moment, the Zimbabwe national army is turning out three fully trained battalions every month. In addition to the training and equipping of the rank and file of our new army, the training of a new crop of officers has continued at a steady pace so that the leadership of our new army shall be second to none.

Our army is an army of the people and an army of the nation. It is here to serve the state and government, not the interests of any minority or the selfish pursuits of individuals. The new soldier in the Zimbabwe national army upholds (?the) policies and programs of government. He owes their [as heard] allegiance only to the state and government--the state and government he helped to create and the state and government he must always be ready to defend and maintain, against all opposition and aggression for the well-being of all the people of Zimbabwe. Our new army is a peoples' army. Its soldiers are servants of the people. As such they must work with the people and be friends of the people. The day has passed when the people feared the sight of a soldier. Today very soldier in the Zimbabwe national army must extend the hand of friendship to the people and the people cannot tolerate any abuse of their rights by any soldier, be it in his behavior, his conduct or loyalty, or in his work. the discipline of our new army is strict and there is adequate provision to protect the people from individual abuse by a soldier. the people have the right to see that there is discipline among their protectors and they must exercise this right. If a person is threatened or badly treated by a member of the Zimbabwe national army, he or she has the right of recourse through proper established channels. Provision has been made for the public to report to the army any behavior or abuse by a soldier, whether he is on duty or not. No soldier off duty should be seen in uniform unless he is traveling to or from his place of work. Similarly, the public has the right to see that members of the new army do not abuse the people's property. The people have the right to report to the authorities any incident where army property is misused or used for any purpose outside official army business. I urge the public to exercise this right.

As much as the Zimbabwe national army is a peoples' army then the people must play their role in keeping the army strong, disciplined and effective. Clearly, the army has the important task of protecting the country and maintaining peace. This they will always do, under any circumstances and at all times. In addition, however, our new revolutionary army will engage in productive work in accordance with the spirit of self-reliance and will work with the people. the new battalions are being deployed strategically to areas where the soldier can work with the people on projects aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation of the rural areas. As the people's friend, the soldier will work side by side with the rural resident to continue the restoration of the economy, the development of our great natural resources and the prosperity of all the people of Zimbabwe. Good night.

BRIEFS

ENVOY'S DEPARTURE FROM MOZAMBIQUE--Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano yesterday gave a farewell dinner party in honor of the Brazilian ambassador to Mozambique, Italo Zappa. The Brazilian diplomat will leave Mozambique for home tomorrow. [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 12 Mar 81 LD/EA]

MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIAL'S DISMISSAL--The provincial government in Manica has decided to dismiss the official in charge of the Executive Council of the City of Chimoio Mateus Limbombo. Mateus Limbombo is accused of negligence and incompetence. The decision was made at one of the sessions of the Manica provincial government when an analysis was made of the functions of the Executive Council of Chimoio City. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 12 Mar 81 LD/EA]